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VALLEY STAR

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May Revise Strikes

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Gray Davis released the state budget's May revise, dubbed the "Fair Share" Revision, May 14 and restored more than half of the state's community college budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The revise however, has brought mixed feeling from students and educators.

Under the new proposal, the state would cut $284 million from the community college system's budget, $240 million less than Davis requested in January.

"We're certainly not satisfied, but at least it's a step in the right direction," Sherri Rodriguez, associate dean of student services said.

While the revise offers an improvement for community colleges, it relies heavily on more than 34,000 full time students dropping out as a result of the proposed tuition increase to $18 a unit, community college league reports say. The additional revenue would bring in an expected $90 million to the state's general fund.

The Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) and the Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) budgets were 99 percent restored. Welfare programs throughout the state — like the CALWorks program at Valley — still stand to lose 45 percent of its budget. CALWorks, part of the welfare-to-work program to assist single mothers in their educational goals, received criticism from the governor last year, who called it another wel-

See 'REVISE' on page 9

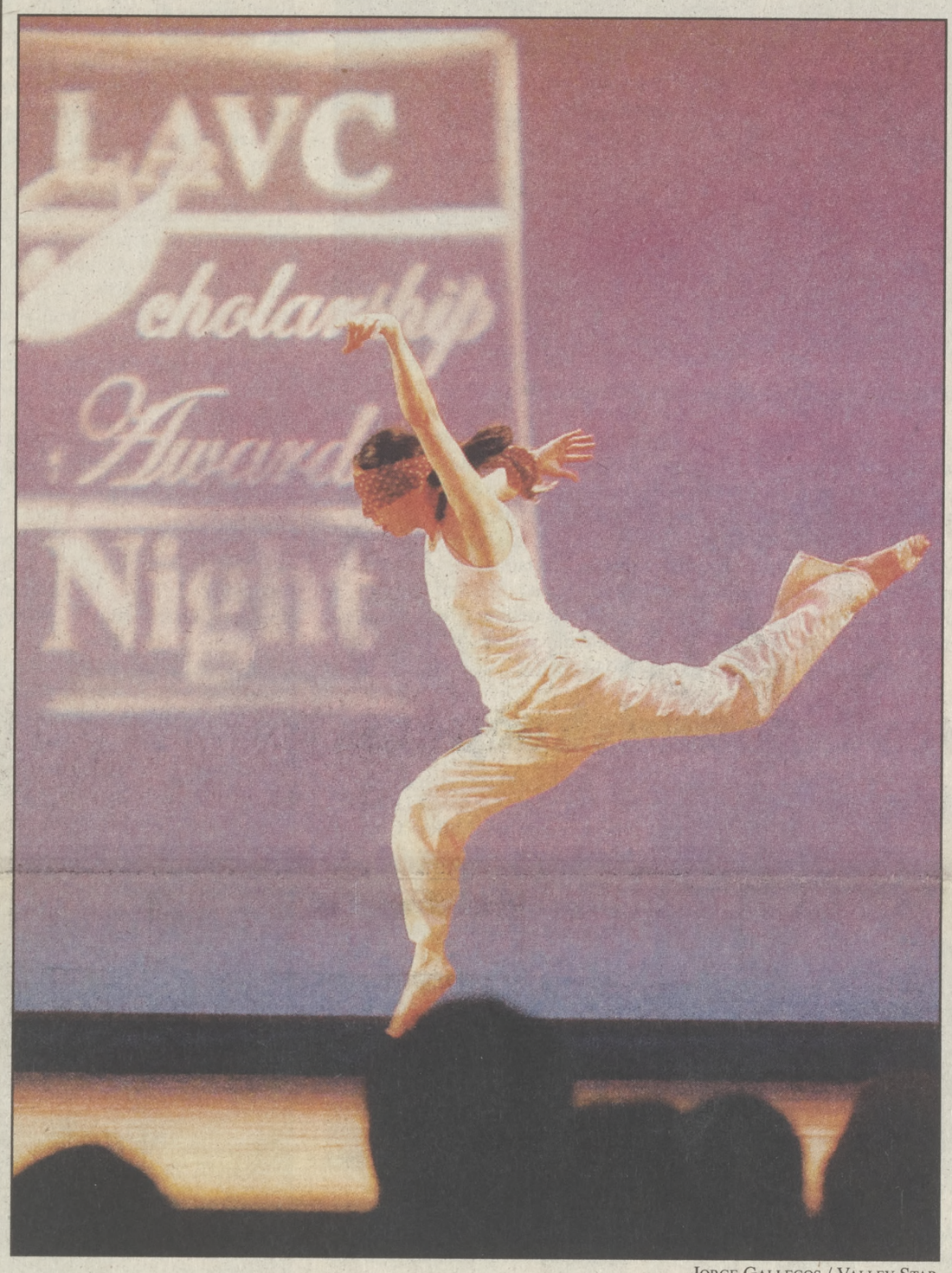
Academic Departments Feel the Urge to Merge

BY KRISTA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

New contracts and plans to share building space in the future have caused several small academic departments at Valley College to merge. With the increased size, departments may be able to offer more classes in the future and obtain greater resources through sharing.

The new contract requires each department to have eight full-time equivalents (FTE), which is eight full-time faculty or a combination of full and part-time that equals to eight. If a department doesn't meet the FTE, the department chair won't get paid for his or her time. Another factor is resources. Larger departments tend to receive the bulk of resources

See 'MERGE' on page 7



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

AWARDS NIGHT-Dancer Yuki Hayashi-Hammel was one of Showcase Awards winner in a night dedicated to all the students who were honored for their work. The event took place at Monarch Hall May 15.

Valley Students Awarded

BY NICOLE SUNKES
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Students, faculty and philanthropists gathered in Monarch Hall Thursday for the Scholarship and Awards Night ceremony. More than 200 people came to celebrate the achievements of Valley College students over the past year.

The 34 scholarships issued totaled more than $32,300. Corporations, individuals and charitable organizations commended students for their scholastic achievements, community service and campus involvement, and they received honors in a range of academic fields, including Jewish studies, fire technology, child development and the arts.

Dennis Reed, dean of fine, visual and performing arts, introduced the winners of the Showcase Awards, which honored students for their artistic accomplishments in various mediums. The winners showcased their talent during the ceremony. Sterling Andrews displayed her winning photography portfolio, Shawn Henry gave an amusing performance of the song "Your Feet's too Big," from the musical "Ain't Misbehavin'" and Yuki Hayashi-Hammel performed her dance piece "Untitled." Contributions for the $500 dollar per-student awards came from California National Bank, the Jack Goldman Memorial Scholarship and Valley's Associated Student Union.

Valley business major Jorge Mier received the All California Academic Team Award, which English depart-

See 'AWARDS' on page 7

Proposition AA Meets Opposition

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Protesters gathered in front of Valley College May 14 to oppose the Proposition AA bond measure that asks for an additional $980 million to complete construction and renovations to the nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District. Proposition A has funded the initial work, which allocated $1.245 billion to district. The measure was added as a result of Tuesday's board of trustees runoff election between incumbent Mona Field and challenger Joyce Burrell Garcia. The election results were not available by press deadline.

"This protest is not against education or relieving the stress and the sacrifice made by the students and the employees," said David Hernandez, former board of trustees candidate and a member of the Valley Group, an organization made of several taxpayer watchdog groups and an offshoot of the San Fernando Valley secession committee who remained together to voice their concerns for valley residents. "It's against the meshing of the two issues and taking advantage of the students' struggles in the name of getting more money for construction with absolutely no regard on how it's being spent."

The group feels those who passed Proposition

See 'PROP. AA' on page 9

SEE THE VALLEY STAR ONLINE THURSDAY FOR RESULTS OF THE MAY 20 RUNOFF ELECTION.

Students and Faculty Argue with Legislators

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

Valley students and faculty flew to the state Capitol Monday to lobby the state assembly for their "fair share" of the state's May budget revisal released last week.

The daylong event, which the American Federation of Teachers union organized, was held in response to Gov. Gray Davis' release of the May Revise last week. The revisal was an improvement but it still wasn't enough for community colleges to continue serving its students, according to educators.

> "You guys have to look at this from the students' point of view. You can't expect students to pay more for less services."
>
> - Leon Marzillier

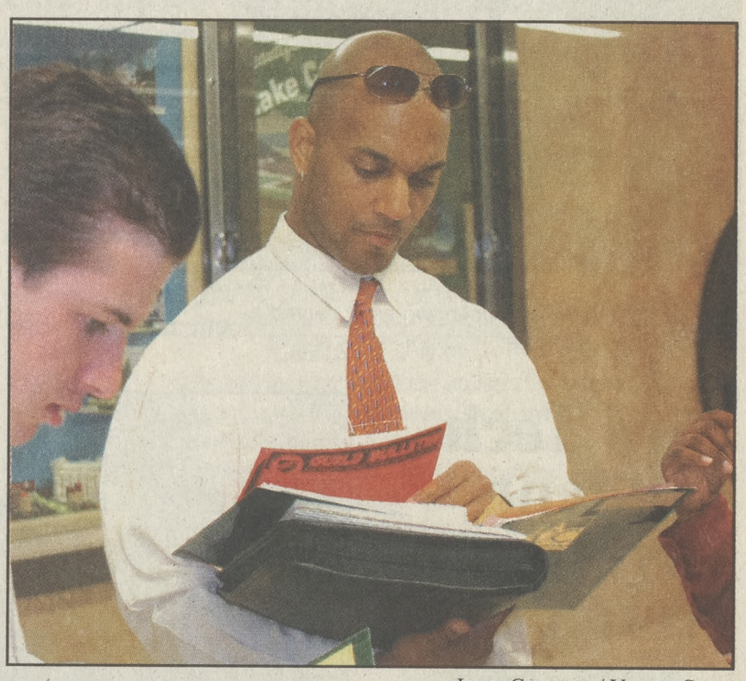
"We're definitely going in the right direction, but we need to go further," said Joanne Waddell, Valley College A.F.T. president said to assembly member Judy Chu's (D-Monterrey Park) legislative assistant Merlyn Calderon.

The lobbyists flew to Sacramento where they met mainly with legislators' assistants because many assembly members were busy in budget meetings.

Most legislators were sympathetic to teachers' and students' dilemmas. They said the biggest problem in obtaining funding for community colleges was that not enough people voted to raise state taxes. California is one of three states where a two-thirds vote is necessary to pass any bill that involves raising taxes.

Six republicans have continued to vote against raising revenue, which has created a stand off between the parties. The caucus is divided,

See 'LOBBY' on page 9



JESUS CARRENO / VALLEY STAR

LOBBY - ASU President-elect James Brevard travelled to Sacramento Monday to plead community colleges' case to state legistaors. Students and faculty guild members accompanied him.

Marine Life Makes a Splash at Seaworld

BY KRISTA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Dolphins, killer whales, manta rays and more, delighted oceanography students from Valley College at Sea World Friday. Eighty-eight students went on the inaugural trip, some by bus others by car. The trip's success and popularity will likely make it a regular part of the oceanography curriculum in future semesters, instructors said.

"A lot of students haven't been to Sea World and don't know a lot about the marine environment," oceanography professor Jackie Hams said. "They also get to learn about educational opportunities in the marine science field."

Hands-on interaction gave students an opportunity to see how sea-life interacts with people and how people depend on

See 'SEA WORLD' on page 7

Environmental Fair Fares Poorly

By Kathy Arellano
Staff Writer

Sonja Brown, Associated Student Union commissioner of campus and environmental affairs, thought Valley College's first annual Environmental Awareness Day held May 14 didn't turn out as well as expected, despite her and her helpers' best efforts.

One hundred folding chairs stood empty in Monarch Square, waiting for an audience. A human-sized banana and a perky strawberry wearing Levis, Keds and black Buddy Holly glasses galloped around the nearly empty quad, trying to entice customers to visit the Jamba Juice booth. The broadcasting club blasted eardrum-rupturing rap music, making conversation nearly impossible.

"I called several environmental groups, but they didn't call me back," Brown said. "I'm disappointed. I wish more people would come to these events."

Brown said she sees a need for students to be educated and informed regarding the many environmental issues happening on campus.

Jamba Juice manager Yolie Franco put a few Razzmatazz, Mango-a-go-go and Caribbean Passion smoothies on the edge of her booth. "It's not a very good turnout," Franco said. "We want to promote a healthy way of eating to the youth. We're charging $4 for a 16-ounce cup of Jamba juice. It's much lower in fat and sugar than a fast food lunch — less expensive, too."

Cat trapper Charleen Sweeney invited people to look at her scrapbook of Valley cats she and her partner rescued. Sweeney runs a nonprofit animal rescue organization, Forgotten Animals of Los Angeles (FALA). "Our main focus is the Valley College campus." Sweeney handed out flyers and invited people to donate to the cause.

Trader Joe's donated Luna and Power bars to the event. Students who joined the ASU received two bars, a notebook, and a pen donated by the North Hollywood Food bank.

"We're trying to get this damn-near pathetic task force going," history professor Jack Arnot said. "The groundspeople are killing these valuable, irreplaceable trees. We wanted people to pay attention to the decimation of the foliage."

Arnot agreed to present a talk on campus environment, but didn't want to because of the loud music.

The broadcasting club thought the events were part of the multicultural fair, which was cancelled due to lack of participation.

"We fit in with the cultural event," KVCM station manager Tony Valdez said. "We can be loud and make our point. We're here to help the clubs because that's what we've been doing all year."

Jesus Carreno /Valley Star

GO NUTS- Valley's wildlife shares its habitat with students.

Two hours into the environmental fair, Jamba Juice, located directly across from the blaring speakers, packed up their smoothies and left.

"We just can't take this loud music anymore," Sweeney of FALA said. So they put away their flyers, packed up their kitty toys and departed.

"I was asked to provide the music," broadcasting club president Denise Mendez said. "I made a timeline. They can read about the culture of music and broadcasting."

Pins and Ribbons for Graduating Nursing Students

By Tiffany Farmakis and Christina Grate
Staff Writers

In the middle ages, nurses traveled alongside knights to care for the wounded, and they carried replicas of their liege's shield to identify themselves. Over the centuries, the mock shield eventually evolved into a pin to signify nurses' valued place in society. The Valley College nursing department carried on this tradition May 14, and held its pin and ribbon ceremony to honor its graduating nursing students.

"The ceremony is special because it's the end of our nursing program at school," said Alexandra Velasquez, co-vice president of nursing graduate students. "It's like a graduation before the graduation. It's more intimate, with our families and professors."

Graduating students received three offerings during the ceremony: the pin, the candle and the rose.

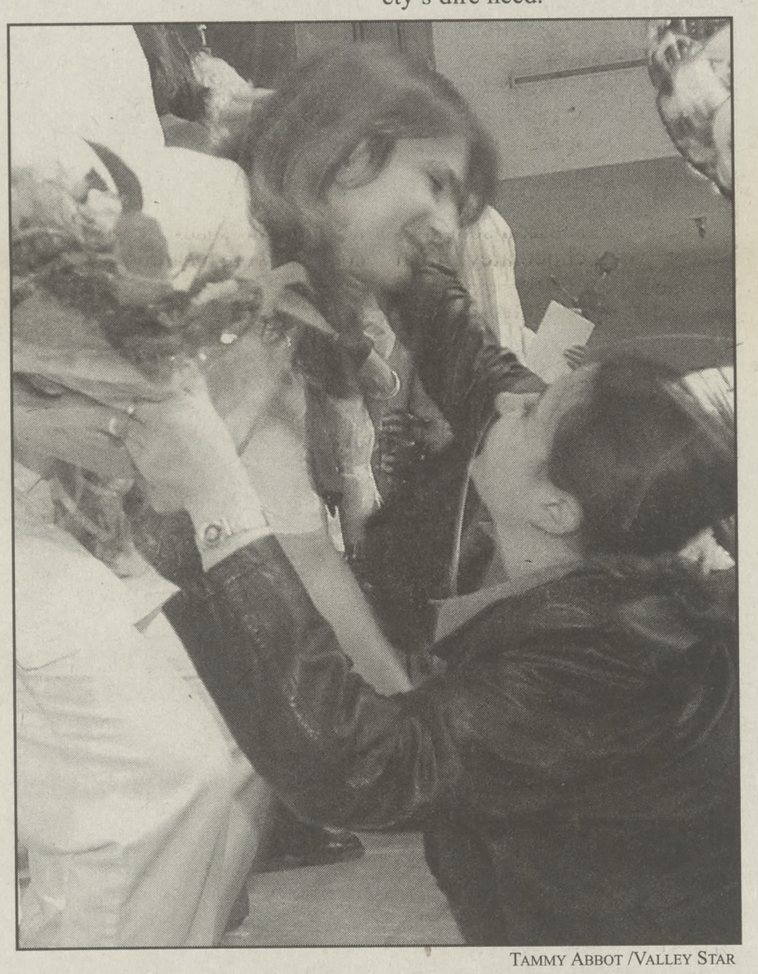
The candle is reminiscent of Florence Nightingale who noticed the high death rate among wounded soldiers. With a candle in her and other nurses hands, she sought to lower the death rate by maintaining an all night watch over them. In turn the candle became the symbol that lit the path to a new way of nursing.

Nurses have adopted the red rose as a sign of their love for mankind and their service rendered to humanity through nursing. The pin's origin is from medieval times.

"Each class has around 41 students, so there's about 80 graduating students each year," Velasquez said. "Right now there is a shortage of nurses, if it weren't for community colleges, students couldn't afford to become nurses."

At the closing of the ceremony the newly graduated nurses recited "The Nurses Pledge," pledging their support and integrity of their jobs as professional nurses.

"Nursing is very hard work," nursing student Esther Ricacho said. "It's for caring people because you have to see the elderly and sick children." Ricacho used to do office work but decided to change her career to nursing after hearing of society's dire need.



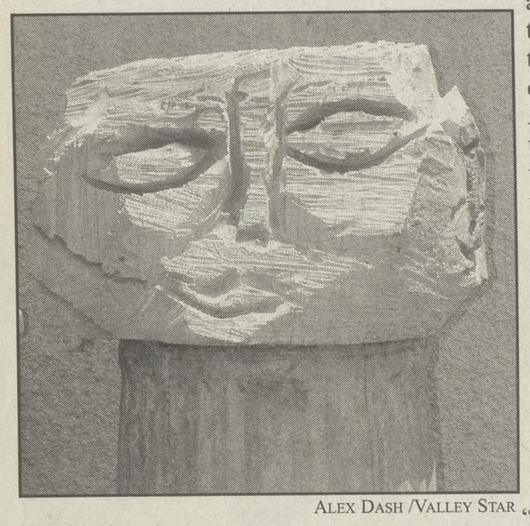
Tammy Abbot /Valley Star

A TOUCHING MOMENT - Asemaneh Tavakoli savors the moment at her Nursing School Graduation in Monarch Hall May 14.

Professor Arnot Accuses Groundskeepers

By Kathy Arellano
Staff Writer

Valley College history professor Jack Arnot distributed flyers at last week's Environmental Awareness fair with a picture of a tree that groundskeepers chopped down. Someone had carved a face into its stump.



Alex Dash /Valley Star

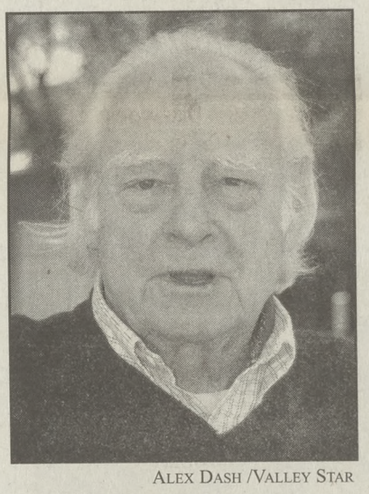
"FACE OF HATE"- An unknown artist carved a piece of the fallen tree.

Arnot said groundskeepers cut the tree down for no good reason, and when it fell, it demolished a cat shelter between the power plant and behavioral science building. Arnot accused Valley administration of not caring about the tree or the cats.

"The groundskeepers are hostile to the animals on campus and they cut the trees in a way they think cats won't climb on them," Arnot said. "That's the kind of stupidity that the administration tolerates."

Gardening supervisor Jack Epling said he considers himself an animal lover.

"Apparently, folks didn't really believe that the wind wrecked that tree," Epling said. "A large section tore off, and it was not the first time. It damaged the integrity of the tree's structure and made it unsafe."



Alex Dash /Valley Star

ANIMAL LOVER- Valley professor Jack Arnot.

Cat trapper Charleen Sweeney works to ensure the cats' safety.

"I've been rescuing cats for years," Sweeney said. "If we find a stray, we'll trap it, have it spayed or neutered and find a home for it. Campus cats keep the rodent population down. A number of people tend to forget." She encourages Valley College administrators to view them as healthy, working cats.

The animal rights organization Actors and Others For Animals is responsible for most of the spaying and neutering performed on Valley cats. They also have posted a sign on the math science building cat sanctuary that offers "a reward of $2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the death of any animal on campus."

"I wish the people doing violence to animals could be caught," Epling said. "Violent behavior to animals is a precursor to violence against humans. Those people need psychological help."

"I'm a birdwatcher," earth sciences tutor Tim Bonebrake said. "I don't think cats make as much impact on the campus environment as all this development. The population needs to be controlled, but I don't know if they need to be eradicated."

Fire Tech Students Investigate Arson

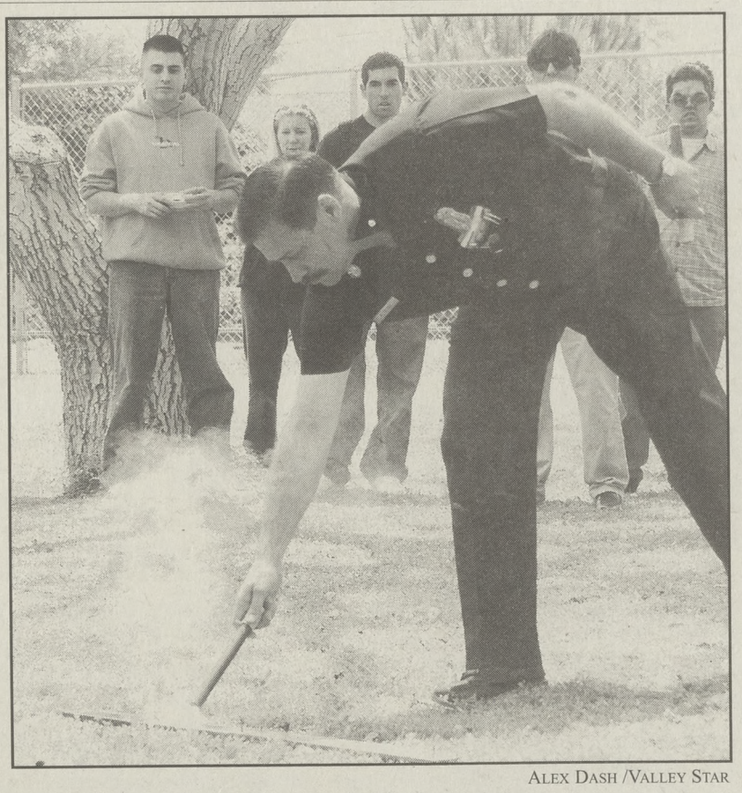
By Jacqui Brown
Staff Writer

The fires blazed behind City Fire Station 102 across from Valley College on Burbank Boulevard and Captain Brian Rubino of Los Angeles City Fire Department was caught red handed. After inspecting the remaining portions of pre-fabricated slab on May 14, it was clearly arson and nearly 30 people saw it happen.

Students from Valley's fire technology program watched Rubino explain and demonstrate how accelerants work and how the burn's effects and patterns leave behind clues as to the fire's origin. The controlled burn exercise educated students enrolled in the introduction to fire sign principles and arson investigation classes.

"The demonstration will help students gain a greater knowledge on the structural integrity of various building materials after a blaze," said John Accomando, Valley fire technology instructor and retired arson investigator. "They will also learn the value of being precise and comprehensive when taking notes and filing reports."

"If you can't prove it by your notes," Rubino said, "it never happened."



Alex Dash /Valley Star

FIRE SHOW- Captain Brian Rubino of the Los Angeles City Fire Department demonstrates the effects of arson.

Preparations for Graduation

By Billie Jordan
Staff Writer

Fall graduates and spring candidates are scheduled to graduate June 10 at 4 p.m. in Monarch Stadium. Preparations begin today at Gradfest 2003 in Monarch Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

"Some of the students seem really excited, others don't really care," said Valley college graduate and graduation evaluation technician, Martha Rios. "They just want to complete their studies."

Graduates will receive mock diplomas at the ceremonies. Fall graduates have already received their diplomas and spring candidates who pass all their required classes will get theirs in the mail afterwards.

"There are students that will graduate based on the grades that get posted in June," said Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services. "You could have a student who blows a final, and then you have the ceremonies the next day and they're marching, and you give them a diploma — you wouldn't want to have to take that diploma back."

Students who don't pass the classes they need to fulfill graduation requirements can take them in the summer and, if they become eligible, they may still receive their diplomas before the fall.

"I'm a little nervous," graduation candidate David Guzzardi said. "I need to pass my math class."

The graduation office mailed students' graduation packages during the last two weeks. Candidates who haven't received their packages can pick them up in the graduation office. More than 100 prospective students who neglected to petition for graduation before the deadline will be allowed to participate but won't see their names in the commencement book.

"This is just the beginning of the end," Delahoussaye said. "I'm hoping that most of them will not end their education with an associate's degree, but will go on to four-year colleges and obtain higher degrees, which are so critical in the work place today."

Student auditions to sing the national anthem at commencement are scheduled today at 2:30 p.m. in the music department. Auditions for commencement speakers are also scheduled today at 1:30 p.m. in the speech department faculty offices.

"I'm excited — I'm ready to move on," Associated Student Union Parliamentarian Jessica Salazar said.

CORRECTION: Due to an error in the artcle "Public Meeting for Draft EIR" in the May 14 issue Jeanne Rubin was incorrectly called the executive secretary to the president. Her correct title is executive assitant to the president's office.

Opinion

Editorial Cartoon

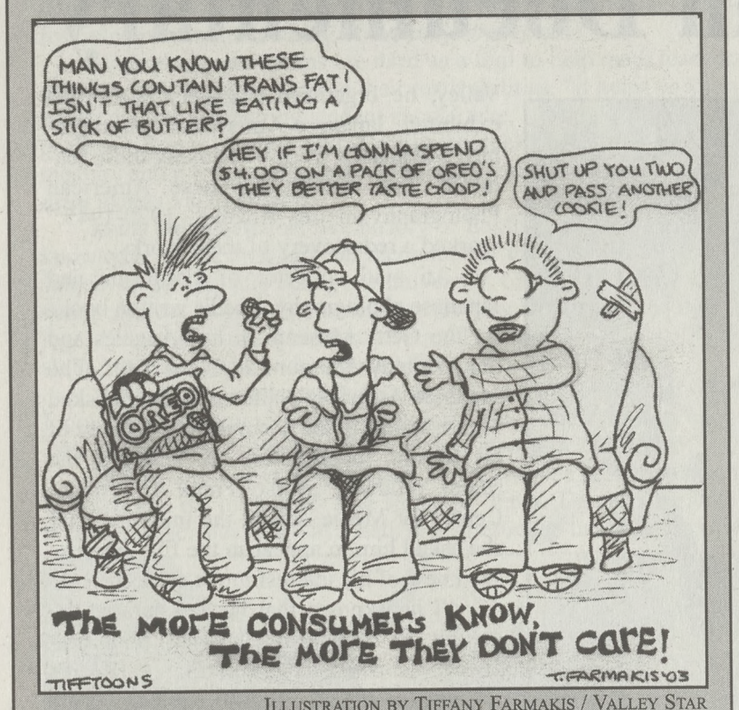


Illustration by Tiffany Farmakis / Valley Star

Staff Editorial

Big Freeways, Bigger Problems

Students who commute to Valley College from Burbank and Thousand Oaks may soon face detours getting to school, as plans to expand U.S. Highway 101 have raised concern in communities from the 134 Junction to the VenCo line. Groups supporting the expansion say the move is necessary to alleviate the congested roadway. Opponents defending homes surrounding the 101 see the move as short-sighted and want the California Transportation Commission, Metropolitan Transportation Authority and government bodies to look at alternative solutions.

It's clear that highway expansion is nothing more than a plot hatched by rich folks in Thousand Oaks, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, the southwest valley and the like to ease their daily commutes into Los Angeles because that's cheaper than developing industries in their own neighborhoods.

Angelinos have had quite enough of our "good neighbors" on the other side of the Santa Monica Mountains. And 101 expansion is their most recent offense. The benefits: Faster commutes into Los Angeles for Ventura County residents. The drawbacks: $3.4 billion in state taxes wasted on asphalt, several months of lane closures and 300 businesses, 800 homes and more than a dozen schools and parks put to the dozer.

"Freeway access is a limited resource, just like gas is a limited resource and just like water is a limited resource," Kitty Langan of the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association said. "It's ridiculous to think that freeways can keep on getting built. The destruction is far greater than the 800 homes that'll be condemned."

CalTrans managed to put one over on all Southern Californians when they held the development planning sessions on the west side of the mountains, with Los Virgenes and Malibu groups doing the consulting. Until recently, this was unknown to all Los Angeles media agencies.

The study has been ongoing since July 2001. In a key move last month, transportation officials selected one of five proposals to go forward for approval. The preferred proposal includes the addition of two carpool lanes and one mixed-flow lane in each direction on the 101, with bus, rail and street improvements.

In the path of destruction are several houses between Fulton and Coldwater Canyon avenues on Riverside Drive. Homes in Malibu will be unaffected.

"It's too high priced for two diamond lanes in each direction," said Gerald Silver of the coalition of freeway residents and the Encino homeowners association. "CalTrans is not looking at a regional solution, they're looking at a single freeway itself. That's bad planning."

This raises several other issues. Most of this area's residents commute to Los Angeles daily, as do the folks in Santa Clarita, Newhall, and some as far away as Lancaster and Palmdale. Instead of developing businesses and economic bases in their own communities, they waste a half tank of gasoline every day to work downtown. It's a quick fix, but it's always been wealthy Americans' modus operandi to use government subsidies instead of their own resources to solve their minor inconveniences.

Here's an idea. How about a freeway that runs north-south through the west Valley? State Route 27, aka Topanga Boulevard, would be a perfect option. Or how about the 800 families that the nouveau 101 will displace move to beautiful Thousand Oaks. With thousands of Vals swarming to their pristine city, it's doubtful the fatcats in VenCo would appreciate the end result of their efforts.

An Opinion

Lawyer Dunks Oreo Lawsuit

By Katharine Anderson

The news is out, Kraft Foods, like Phillip-Morris, has been deceiving the public for years. Oreo cookies contain fat. They're not a healthy alternative to snacking. This is what a San Francisco lawyer wanted to say when he sued Kraft Foods earlier this month.

Stephen Joseph sought to have the chocolatey treat banned from California. What would be the punishment for the child caught smuggling the treat across state line? Community service? Maybe jail-time for repeat offenders combined with rehabilitation programs.

All of this because the cookies contain trans fat. Trans fat is created in the partial hydrogenation process, when hydrogen gas is bubbled through vegetable oil. This process helps sustain many foods' shelf life, and it's present in about 40 percent of the food in grocery stores, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Forty percent – what doesn't contain it – anything worthy of snacking on?

The basis for his lawsuit was that this type of fat is "well hidden" and this danger is marketed to children. It's doubtful parents believed this sugar-packed, artificially made snack has any nutritional value for their children. Does Joseph really expect people to believe parents bought this cookie thinking it was a healthy thing to eat? He said he is probably "full of hydrogenated fat" because he didn't know about it. Perhaps he should have dunked a celery stalk in his milk.

So here we are – another case of taxpayer dollars being frivolously used. Some think it was just a publicity stunt – a lawyer who would abuse the system for personal gain and notoriety. Joseph didn't know about hydrogenated fats, but he thought snack foods like cookies were healthy to eat? Consumers have known about the dangers of sugars, oils and everything else tasty in snacks for a long time. Would listing one additional type of fat on the package really sway consumers away from their cravings? Not likely.

After much publicity about the lawsuit, Joseph withdrew it. "The factual and legal basis for the lawsuit when it was filed was that the American people did not know about trans fat," Joseph said. "After three days of incredible national publicity, everyone in America knows about trans fat. The factual and legal basis for the lawsuit has totally disappeared."

Now that people are informed, his job is done. What a flagrant misuse of the court systems. What a waste of taxpayer dollars. He defended himself by sayibg that no money was requested in the lawsuit and greed wasn't a factor. He may not of wanted financial gain, but he didn't mention the expenses the court accrued processing his claim. All taxpayers should hope we never hear of Joseph bringing a lawsuit to an American court again.

Here Come the Patsies

PART I: THE CHAFF

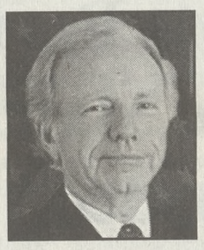
By Michael Ordoña
Special to the Star

As a Valley College professor is fond of saying, Reagan and Thatcher changed the terms of the debate, moving not only their own parties but the opposition further right. In this era, Osama bin Laden has apparently accomplished that feat, making George W. Bush look awfully bulletproof despite extremely divisive policies and the loss of more than 2.3 million American jobs.

The Democrats are in disarray, still reeling from having managed to 'lose' an election that seemed theirs to win with only a modicum of effort. I guess it's difficult to buy when you can't tell the difference between brands.

This column is to help figure out who's who, with brief capsules of the more laughable declared Democratic candidates for the 2004 presidential election. Next week's column will provide information about the more substantial ones. So bring on the patsies, everybody needs a laugh.

First in this freak show is Joltin' Joe Lieberman, truly an elephant in donkey's clothing, angling to become the first man to lose two presidential campaigns this millennium. Speculation continues that Little Joe is actually a Republican spy.

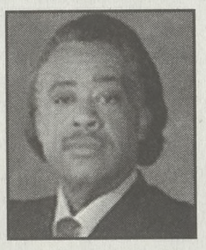


A longtime advocate of blaming Hollywood for America's woes, the self-described fiscal Republican, big supporter of the war on Iraq and Bush's faith-based initiatives, this winner didn't even give up his Senate re-election campaign while he was Gore's vice presidential candidate.

Is he the early favorite? Of the GOP, he probably is.

Then again, that 'honor' may go to the 'honorable' Reverend Al Sharpton. Has anyone figured out exactly what it is this guy does? He's officially a "Civil Rights Activist."

Sharpton's probably best known for trying to incite angry mobs over the horrible racial attack on Tawana Brawley. And when Brawley admitted she made up the whole story and wasn't attacked, Sharpton bravely hid in a hole, only to re-emerge later with a new hairdo and even less sense.



The Don King of the Democratic Party has no chance, but the GOP is crossing its fin-

See **CHAFF'** on page 7

Letters to the Editor

RE: A Vocational A.A. Degree Needed, April 23, 2003

Lawrence Stone said many students can't graduate due to the arduous algebra requirement. There are many reasons students have problems with math.

The first reason is they weren't taught the fundamentals of math early and thus advanced math is overwhelming. The second reason is anxiety. Students think they must be stupid and are overwhelmed with failure time after time. Their brain stops functioning due to the anxiety.

Some students have dysgraphia — a math disability. A student needs to go to the Office of Disabled Students to ask to be tested for a math disability. If there's a disability, the student can have untimed tests, tutors and math labs for assistance. Students at Glendale Community College can take math at their own pace. They start with basic math so they're sure they fully understand all of the math concepts and proceed at their speed. There are solutions, every one learns differently and at their own speed.

Clarann J. Goldring, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist

RE: Valley Super-Mom Aims for Ivy Leagues, May 14, 2003

I'd like to compliment the Valley Star and Ivy Dai. Rocio Gonzalez is an awesome person and deserves recognition. However, I'd like to comment on a piece of information in the article that surprised me.

I was appalled to learn that professors at USC give only one "A" per class. This is so unethical I'm stunned it's happening. My Ph.D. is in Instructional Development and Technology and I've spent many years designing educational materials. The goal of instruction is to have students master the subject. If a student masters 100 percent of what the instructor feels they can learn in a semester, that student should get an "A," if they master 90 percent a "B," etc. To withhold "A's" from students who have demonstrated mastery is unfair and undermines any desire to do one's best. Why try if the odds are stacked against you?

I certainly hope that the professors at Valley College are more ethical than their counterparts at USC.

Wilma Bennett, Ph.D., former district board of trustees candidate

CORRECTION

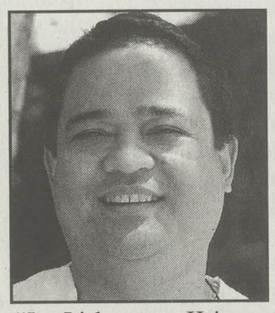
Due to an error in the editing process of the opinion by Ryan Yudell titled "AmBush on the Lincoln" that appeared in the May 14 issue of the Valley Star, the article didn't meet the writer's satisfaction as being true to his original opinion. To see the original, unedited opinion in its entirety, go to lavalleystar.com and read "The Reader is Mightier than the Pen."

*Campus*View

Who do you think will get the democratic presidential nomination?

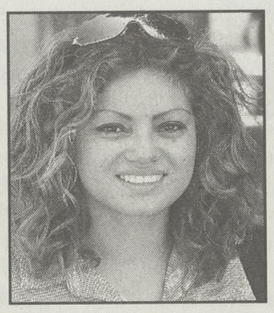
"I'm not sure, I don't think any of the candidates are strong enough."

Barbara Berg



"Joe Lieberman. He's got money, connections, network and is the closest person to Bill Clinton."

Tony Azcueta



"I have no idea."

Lisbeth Maradiaga

" I don't really follow politics."

Yesenia Rosales

Photos by Benjamin Favela

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Valley Life

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES

California State University, Northridge
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays in Career/Transfer Center

Woodbury University
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 14
3 to 6 p.m. May 22, in Career/Transfer Center

California State University, Dominguez Hills, 10 a.m. to noon May 21. Advisement in the Career/Transfer Center

University of Judaism
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Career/Transfer Center

MUSIC

LAVC College Choir and Chamber Singers, 11:30 a.m. May 22 in the Music Recital Hall.

LAVC Jazz Ensemble, 11:30 a.m. May 28 in Music Room 112

Philharmonic Choir Cabaret Fundraiser, 5 p.m. June 1 at the Mainstage Theatre. Admission Charge.

THEATER

"Sylvia," presented by Valley Collegiate Players, 8 p.m. May 22-24 and 29-31 in the Horseshoe Theatre. Admission Charge.

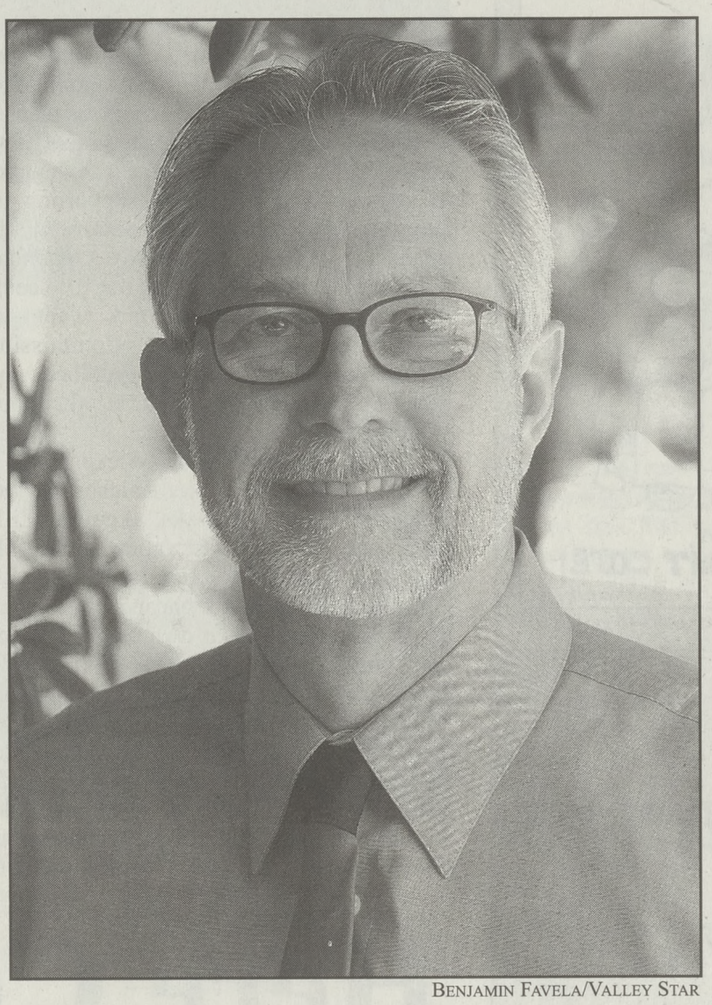
Dennis Reed Appears in Documentary

By Nicole Sunkes
Valley Life Editor

After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor during World War II, the U.S. government rounded up thousands of Japanese-Americans and imprisoned them in internment camps around the country. They were only allowed to take pieces of their lives that they could carry and were forced to sell businesses and homes that they had built while working towards the American dream.

"Toyo Miyatake: Infinite Shades of Gray," a KCET documentary that originally aired in February and again Sunday, focuses on one internee, Miyatake, and his life's work as a photographer. Miyatake was held at Manzanar, a camp about four hours north of Los Angeles at the eastern foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Dennis Reed, Valley College's dean of fine, performing and media arts appeared in the documentary as a commentator on Miyatake's work during his internment as well as on Miyatake's work within the international pictoral movement.

Miyatake was a well-known art photographer in Los Angeles before his internment. His studio was responsible for most of the Japanese wedding photography from that era, according to Reed. Miyatake was able to smuggle a lens and film holder into Manzanar, and he fashioned a camera out of scrap wood, according to the film's producer Karen Ishizuka. He was the first photographer to capture images of the camps and also became the camp photographer. He was also taken to other camps to photograph arts and crafts, according to Ishizuka.



Benjamin Favela/Valley Star

COMMENTATOR- Dennis Reed, Valley's dean of fine, performing and media arts, appears in the documentary "Infinite Shades of Gray: Toyo Miyatake."

"It's some of the only work from a Japanese photographer from that period," Reed said. "And it's certainly the best and most interesting."

Reed can take some credit for the renewed interest in Miyatake's work. In 1982, while teaching art at Valley, he organized a gallery show that exhibited Japanese-Americans' photography. Miyatake's work was among those featured. The show, "Japanese American Photography in Los Angeles, 1920-1945," sparked a rediscovery of these works.

An avid collector of California and Japanese photography, Reed's written books for the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Whitney Museum in New York. The Japanese American National Museum asked him to appear in the documentary because of his passion for Japanese art. Ishizuka, the senior producer at the Frank H. Watase Center for Media Arts at the museum, said she asked him to appear in the film because she knew of his interest in the subject.

"I had known that he had curated the exhibit on Japanese-American photographers," Ishizuka said, referring to Reed's 1982 show at Valley. "And I knew that he knew of Miyatake's work."

The museum chose Miyatake as the subject of the documentary because he was so well known within the Japanese-American community.

"He contributed a lot to the culture and history of Japanese-Americans in Los Angeles," Ishizuka said.

The film has won eight awards and took Ishizuka two years to make. It was an official selection at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival and won Best Documentary Short at the Savannah Film Festival, the Newport Beach Film Festival and the Florida Film Festival. Ishizuka also won the HBO Producers Award at the Savannah Film Festival.

"Toyo Miyatake: Infinite Shade of Gray" will play throughout May on KCET.

Hot Sauce Heats Up Vending Machines

By Billie Jordan
Staff Writer

Students can buy miniature bottles of Tapatio hot sauce in the campus vending machines. But does it reflect the 40 percent Hispanic plurality at Valley College?

"There's going to be a mixture of foods in a diverse population, that's just the way things are going to gravitate, and I think it's a good thing," said Raul Castillo, executive director of the patron's association.

Tapatio is a Mexican condiment but it isn't just Hispanic students who enjoy it. Asian students, 13 percent of Valley's population, enjoy it to. "They put hot sauce on their Chinese food," the Filipino-American Castillo said.

"We forecasted that people would like it," said Ryan Marsh, First Class Vending's vice president. "We figured, people like burritos, they'll probably appreciate the hot sauce to go with it."

Tapatio is sold in supermarkets and liquor and convenience stores. Apparently a little Latino culture has worn off on most Angelinos. Making Tapatio available in vending machines not only reflects the Hispanic population at Valley, but the melting pot indicative of American culture.

Valley chose First Class Vending in the beginning of the fall semester, last year when IC Twins Vending Contract ended. Apparently the former company didn't pay the school and is in litigation regarding the controversy.

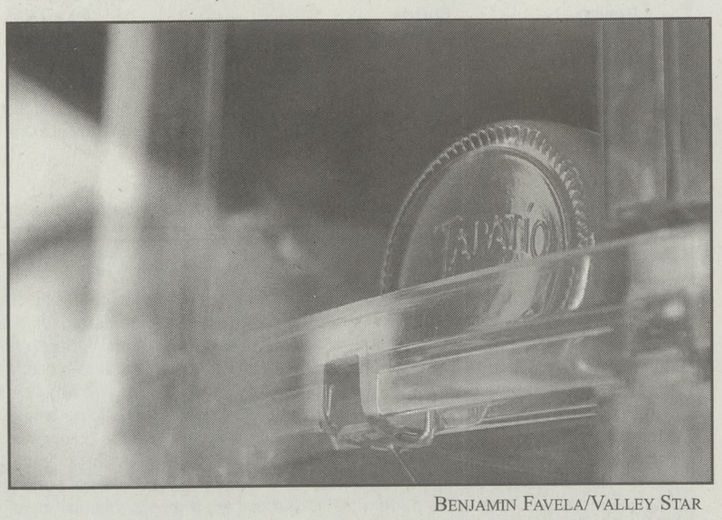
"We got all their bids and this one was the best," dean of administrative services Brick Durley said. "They had the best deal both service and finance-wise." Items sold from the vending machines were listed in the bidding process, and Tapatio was one of the items that might have helped seal the deal.

The vending company recommended selling Tapatio.

"They must have a good reason from a sales point of view," said Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administrative services. "If they put okra in the machines it probably wouldn't sell."

Valley receives a 20 to 40 percent commission on the hot sauce and other vending sales. The school received approximately $9,300 between January and March, according to Tom Hiltabiddle, Valley's chief fiscal administrator.

First Class vending has a history of providing quality service and quality products, according to Durley. They participated in the President's Annual Gala in November and donated $1,000 to the Patrons Association, in the interest of students.



Benjamin Favela/Valley Star

SPICY- Since the end of the Fall 2002 semester, students have been able to buy Tapatio in the vending machines on campus.

Movie Review: "The Matrix Reloaded"

By Bob Teichman
Staff Writer

After four long years of waiting, one of the most anticipated sequels in recent history has finally arrived. "The Matrix Reloaded" freed minds Thursday with a record-breaking $42.5 million opening day. Can this "Matrix" be the one?

Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and Neo (Keanu Reeves) return to the subterranean human city of Zion seeking rest for the Nebuchadnezzar crew, only to find a new danger to the human resistance.

The plot keeps the same overall complexities that are key to understanding "The Matrix." The human situation is the same — oppression by machines. The only hope Morpheus notes is also the same — Neo. However, with the many similarities this film shares with its predecessor, "Reloaded" does an excellent job at packing its own personal punch.

Villains come in all shapes and sizes. The former leader of the human-seeking computer programs, Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving), finds himself stranded in the Matrix and obsolete to a new set of upgraded Agents. Smith vows to take revenge on Neo and the other agents by using his newfound ability to clone himself endless times over.

Others with their own agendas come into the mix. A sovereign program known as the Merovingian (Lambert Wilson) sends two of his personally-programmed bodyguards, known simply as Twins (Adrian and Neil Rayment), to prevent Morpheus and Neo from getting what they want.

Many scenes go beyond any expectations the moviegoer might have. A 14-minute freeway chase is undoubtedly the highlight of the stunt scenes. Almost two miles of freeway were constructed at the Alameda Naval Base to accommodate the scene.

The chase has a variety of phases, each leading to the next. The ghost program Twins chase Morpheus and Trinity (Carie-Anne Moss) while opening fire at several cars full of agents. At one point, Trinity steals a motorcycle and rides through traffic in the opposite direction. And in a final show of incredible cinematography and choreography, Morpheus takes on one of the Twins atop a speeding semi.

"That car chase is just endlessly watchable," Laurence Fishburne said. "They're going to be talking about that car chase for the next 50 years."

The acting in this movie is much improved. Long-time small-screen actress Gloria Foster returns in "Reloaded" as the all-knowing Oracle. Accomplished actors Jada Pinkett Smith, as Captain Naiobi, and Henry J. Lennix, as Commander Lock, join the cast of "The Matrix."

Veteran actor Anthony Zerbe lends credible talent to the cast. He takes the role of Councillor Hamann, a spiritual and political leader of Zion. His character does well to present a different point of view about the situation Zion's population faces.

Hugo Weaving's eerie portrayal of Agent Smith makes the character one of the most likeable villains in any film. His career accomplishments have earned him this role, as well as the role of Elf Lord Elrond in "The Lord of the Rings," and rightfully so.

Although two scenes drag on a minute longer than they should, and the film as a whole serves as a lead-in to the final chapter of "The Matrix" trilogy, "Reloaded" is just as good, and bigger than its predecessor. The acting is excellent, the fight choreography is unmatched, and the ending is the perfect lead-in to "The Matrix Revolutions," in theatres November 22.

Don't bother trying to avoid this film. "Reloaded" is playing at 3,603 theaters on a record 8,517 screens nationwide. There's a reason: it's that good.

Trip to the Dentist

Slice of Life

by Jacqui Brown

Dental visits are one of the things I enjoy. They rate right up there with the gynecologist and the IRS.

First, they sit you in the chair in a vulnerable position. A light beams into your eyes and a tray full of sharp objects sitting next to you makes it hard not to stare in anticipation.

The first thing you learn early in dentalese is the room they choose to put you in. When you're name is called and they lead you down the hall, you feel your heart racing as they head for the 'closed door' room. Beads of sweat form on your upper lip. You get that pull in your stomach as fear replaces all rational thoughts. Your brain registers the pain levels associated to closed doors. A voice in your head screams at them to keep moving to a room without a door where only a reasonable amount of pain is publicly acceptable.

The weight of the world lifts as they turn and guide you to a room across from the 'closed door' room. "Not today!" you chant as you sit down and get the drool bib on. Relieved, you lie back and close your eyes momentarily, only to jump at the sound of a door shutting behind you. You fly out of the chair, smash your head on the light and nearly knock over the tray of dental tools, only to see it was the door across the hall shutting. A file rests in the chart slot and you see, in bold black letters, someone else's last name. "Poor bastard," you think as you thank God once again.

You collect yourself before anyone has a chance to see what you're doing. Return to the chair, re-position the light and close your eyes in anticipation. The dentist appears a few minutes later, hiding somewhere behind the light. Rubber gloves snap. His fingers invade your wide-open mouth, and he asks you things like, "How have you been," or "How's the family?" They pause, waiting for something coherent to come from you, as they push your lips up and over your nose while prodding your gums with a sharp object. Trying to smile in response just makes him pull your lips apart more aggressively, until you finally give up and bat your eyelashes hoping he'll have enough experience to recognize a response to his questions.

Every bad dental experience runs through your mind until the doctor releases your lips, the assistant releases your tongue from the out-of-control spit sucker and you the chair begins to rise back to a sitting position.

The ironic thing is, once you're done, you tell them how good it is to see them and thank them for their services. It's like having a baby. The mind is a fickle thing when it comes to our tolerance level for things we inevitably have to endure. It's certainly more reason to take good care of yourself, so visits like these are few and far between.

I've reached an agreement with my dentist. It's simple and I consider it fair. If he causes me what I consider unnecessary pain, I can grab one of his body parts and facilitate a little pain transference.

So far he's never hurt me.

Speaking Math, Calculating English

The second in a two-part series on college placement exams.

BY NICOLE SUNKES
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Math classes are many college students' most agonizing obligations. Problems with the subject start in elementary school and manifest into an absolute loathing of the subject over time.

Math placement exams are used as a tool to help math teachers decide where students stand in their math abilities. "It helps us know which classes an entering student should take," Valley College math professor Steve Castillo said. Castillo teaches Calculus 1 and elementary and intermediate algebra. He also created the different placement exams Valley offers.

Many college majors like history or English require no intimate knowledge of the Pythagorean theorem, but math is still a required subject to get into any college or university. Castillo feels that a student's success in math is a barometer for how well they'll do in college. "Most students who don't do well in math have poor study skills," he said. "Most who do well have good study skills."

"I went up to math analysis or calculus in high school, and when I took the placement test - I placed in math 115," liberal studies major Jane Nicolas said. "I took a challenge and placed in 215 or 245."

Before enrolling in a math class, students take a placement exam to determine the math level best suited for them. The tests are computer adaptive, meaning that a student is questioned based on answers to previous questions. If a student feels that he has been incorrectly placed he can take a challenge. If, after the challenge, he's still dissatisfied, the student may retake the placement exam. If all of these procedures provide an unsatisfactory result for the student, he may file a grievance with the student services office.

"By the time you've taken the exam, you've forgotten a lot, and it was way, way hard," student Gloria Marquez said. "I think they place you in a lower class so you have to take more math classes and the school makes more money."

Although there was a time when Valley issued waivers, they are no longer offered. "The problem with waivers is that when students get to a higher level, they're expected to know more," Castillo said. "If you haven't taken the classes, then you won't have a solid grasp on the math." Waivers are not offered by the math department, "That was another department," he said.

The math department offers elementary statistics and the psychology department offers statistics 1. The problem that arises between the psychology and math departments is their different approaches in teaching the subject.

"We agreed that we would have a pre requisite," psychology department chair Stephen Salzman said. "We don't teach it though, because it's math. The psychology department's class may be more relevant to the needs of students in the social studies."

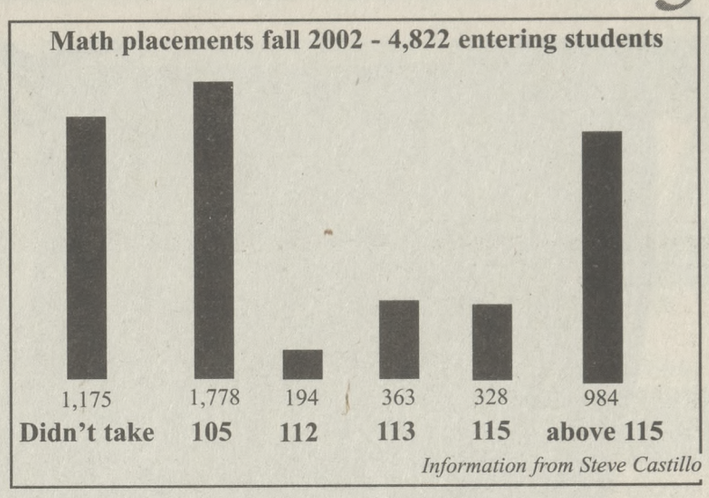
Salzman said the problem with distributing waivers is that there may be a discrepancy with the student's transcripts at the university level.

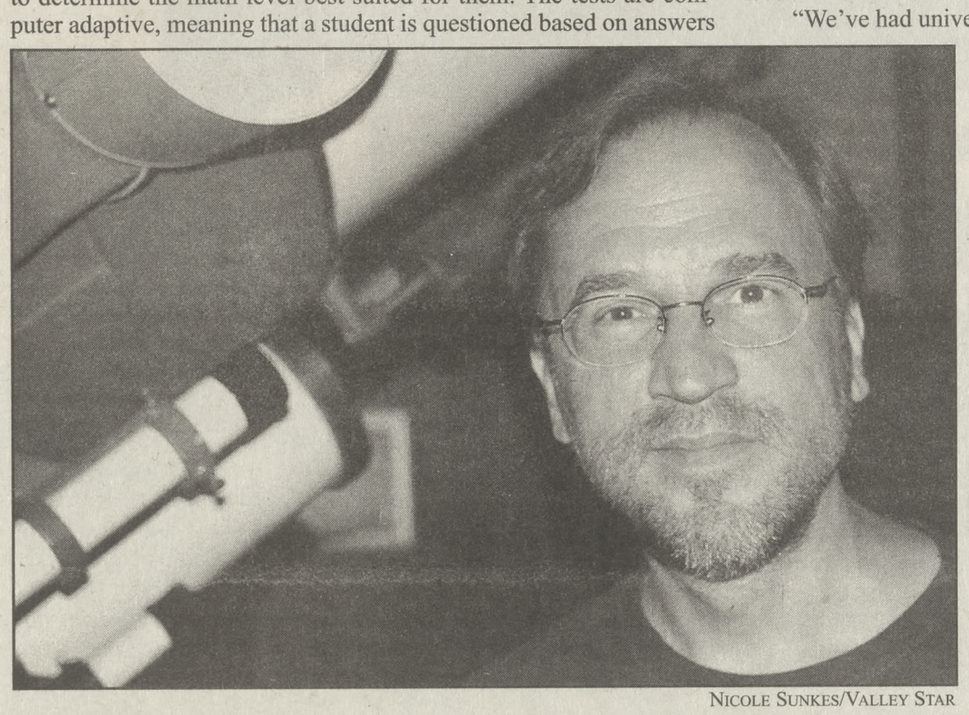
"We've had universities send students back to us to complete the requirements," Salzman said. "Why would they give a student credit for a class if they haven't satisfied the pre requisite?" Salzman may give a student the waiver under special circumstances after warning them of the possibility they may face repercussions later.

Valley sociology professor Sally Raskoff, who also teaches statistics, said that it's important for a student to satisfy the pre requisites before taking any statistics class.

"If you haven't taken the pre requisites, you have to learn it," Raskoff said. "We can't teach both math and statistics in a statistics class. There has to be a basic level of proficiency."

Castillo stresses the importance of math for other reasons as well. "Math teaches you how to think," he said. "It teaches you how to look at things differently."





NICOLE SUNKES/VALLEY STAR

STAR WRITER- Andre Bormanis, a writer for the "Star Trek" shows, spoke to the Astronomy Group at Valley Sunday night.

Writing for the Stars

BY JACKIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

The Astronomy Group sponsored a free show Sunday featuring a lecture from one of the "Star Trek" writers. Andre Bormanis shared everything from how the ideas for the show about to the special effects and more.

"I thought it was great," student Shanelle Howard said. "I would love to hear him speak again."

"I love astronomy and it's always a pleasure talking to students," Bormanis said.

"Star Trek" wasn't received well when it first debuted in 1966 the show was canceled after only three years. It wasn't until the reruns aired that the show gained popularity. Six hundred episodes and 10 movies later, "Star Trek" has evolved into one of the most popular shows of all time.

Taking the show back before the original "Star Trek" began, "Enterprise" takes place 100 years before Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock traveled through space. With an entirely computer-generated Enterprise and actors augmented with computer-generated effects, the Enterprise advances forward behind the scenes.

"It's interesting insight as to the philosophy and the science the show is based on," astronomy professor David Falk said.

Bormanis showed slides of the set and explained in detail how the show is brought to life; the location shooting, the life-size pods and more than three hours of make-up application some actors have to endure. It takes approximately seven to eight days to shoot one episode, with a couple of weeks to prepare for the special effects, like the streaking stars when the ship goes into warp drive.

"It gave me an insight on how real life gets put into science fiction," student Doris Alvarez said.

Not all is what it seems on the futuristic show. A curtain with painted stars is used for the backdrop of the night sky. Set a few hundred years into our future, some of the gadgets may look a little familiar. The show managed to borrow some props from the movie set of "Mission Impossible" and the production designers convincingly disguises Evian bottles as medical props.

"Here's a very low-tech device," Bormanis said pointing to a paper towel rack located on the ship's sick bay.

As for the writing, Bormanis said they're able to explore anything one can imagine with a lot of fun. "This is science fiction," he said. "We're suppose to stretch it yet still remain scientifically credible."

Bormanis has worked on the show for ten years, starting as a science consultant for "Star Trek: Voyager" becoming a story editor and writer for "Enterprise." " I never would have thought I'd be doing this," Bormanis said. "My plan was to stay with NASA."

Bormanis was a fan of the original Star Trek series from an early age and found a fascination with astronomy. While attending the University of Arizona he manage to sneak in some writing and literature classes. "I've always loved literature," he said. "I would always take at least one class."

Graduating with a master's degree in Physics and receiving a master's in space policy from George Washington University, he used his passion and interest to create his dream career.

"It takes commitment," Bormanis said. "Follow you're heart, find something your passionate about and find a way to make a career out of it."

Political Science Department Honors its Top Students

BY JACKIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

The History Humanity Lower Political Science (HHLPS) department held an intimate gathering to recognize students whose achievements and interests in their classes more than exceeded their teachers' expectations. Students received 11 scholarships totaling $3300 during the May 14 ceremony.

"We are the only department that does this," political science professor Anthony O'Regan said.

With scholarships up to $500, Department Chair Rose Drummond based her student selections on autobiographical essays and two recommendations from department members. In addition, the student had to have 40 credited hours at Valley College with a 3.0 grade point average. Twelve of the units had to be within the department and have a G.P.A. of 3.5.

The $500 scholarship was worth the work for Barbara Weinstein, who said she waited 30 years to return to school after raising her kids.

The three scholarships are named after former Valley students. The first was Max Heyman, who later became editor of the Journal of the West Indians, next was James Willett, whose wife Nancy makes contributions that make these ceremonies possible and the last was the Oliver Watters Scholarship, started by Robert Pritchard and his wife.

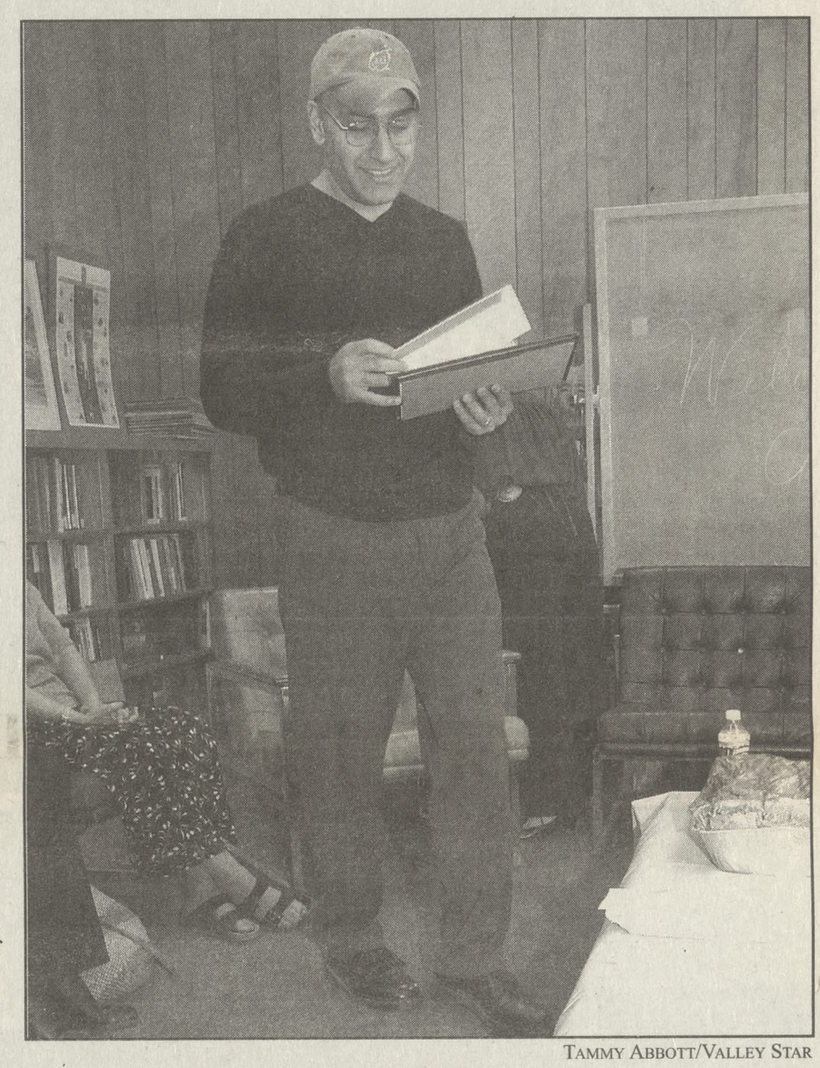
"Watters sat through all of my classes, even as he got older," Pritchard said of his friend.

"The political science and history teachers have inspired me," student Esther Azal said. A luncheon preceding the ceremony gave the students the opportunity to express their gratitude to the department.

"The diversity of the department has been mind-blowing," student Todd Jasmin said.

One by one, students shared their enthusiasm on how much their classes have inspired them to a future in the subject.

"I'm a returning student and somehow you turned me on to history," student Darin French said. He was notified by mail about his $200 scholarship.



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

CONGRATULATIONS- Paul Asoyan receives his Political Science scholarship Wednesday. He anticipates tranfering to UC Berkley in the fall.

SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR

CLASSICAL CONCERT- Jo Ann Hokansson, violinist (left), Ruby Luban, clarinetist (center) and Steven Schneider, pianist, (right) form the Foothill Trio. They played selections from Ludwig van Beethoven and Darius Milhaud Thursday in the music recital hall at Valley.

Guitars' Strings Serenade

BY JAMES DABBAGIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Valley College Guitar Ensemble serenaded audience members in the music recital hall Friday evening. Twenty guitarists, accompanied by several different orchestral instruments, performed pieces including Mozart's Symphony Number 40, one of Mozart's best known symphonies, and "Monarch Rag," a song guitar program director Robert Mayeur created.

Within the ensemble is the Los Angeles Valley College Classical Guitar Quartet, whose members are Melissa Mozarian, Michael Camp, Aki Yambe and Justin Bell. The ensemble has been together for quite some time and most have played guitars for even longer.

"I've been into guitars since I was a kid," Camp said. This was the quartet's last performance together, as each has been accepted into four-year universities' music programs, according to Mayeur.

Mayeur took time to tune each guitar before a quartet number, in addition to educating the audience about the reasons for careful tuning.

"You should be thankful that this isn't a lute quartet," Mayeur said to a seemingly impatient audience. "A lute has 22 strings."

The audience gave a standing ovation at the end of the show.

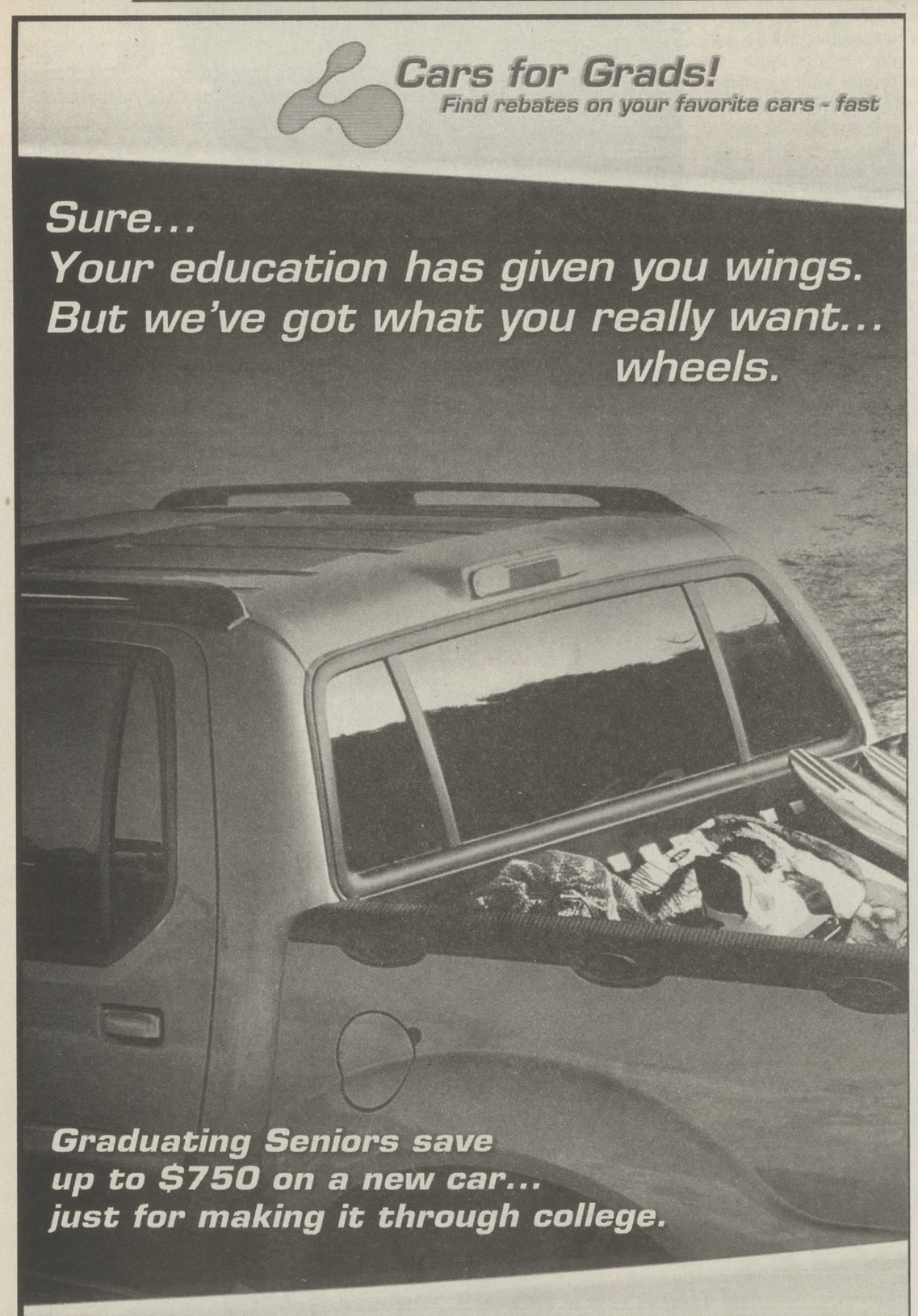
"I thought it was good, very good," student John Gomez said. "It sounded like they've been practicing."

The guitar ensemble currently has two CDs for sale, with a third volume due later this year. Music fans can buy the CDs in the music section of the campus bookstore.

FREE SCREENING
VALLEY COLLEGE CINEMA/MEDIA ART PRESENTS

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS...Advocacy Works"
Film Screening --- Friday May 23, 2003

L.A.V.C. Theater Arts Building's Main StageTheater
Show Times: 1:00pm and 7:00pm



advertisement

Attention Graduating Students

Did you know that you can reduce the interest rate on your student loans and save thousands of dollars by consolidating your student loans after graduation?

The Higher Education Act, established by Congress, allows any graduate (or parent with PLUS loans) to consolidate their student loans by combining all their eligible student loans into a single loan issued by a new lender. Graduates who do this immediately after graduation (while they are still in their non-repayment period) are able to reduce the interest rate on all their eligible loans by 0.60% - potentially saving themselves thousands of dollars.

There are several other benefits associated with Student Loan Consolidation and these include:

- The ability to reduce your monthly interest repayments by up to 54% by extending your repayment period. This may help you in matching your income level to your repayment obligations.
- Fixing the interest rate on your loans to take advantage of the historically low interest rates that are currently available for the life of your loans. Your existing loans are variable and could rise over time as interest rates rise. Consolidation can ensure that this doesn't happen.
- Dealing with only one monthly loan repayment from one lender can make your life easier.
- Save even more on your repayments by taking advantage of 'borrower benefits' that can reduce your interest rate by up to an additional 1.25% by making electronic and on-time repayments.

Does it Matter When You Choose to Consolidate?

Yes. If you are about to graduate (or have recently graduated) timing is critical to maximizing the amount that you can save with consolidation. If you wait too long to apply for consolidation, you might miss out on the opportunity to reduce the interest rate on all your loans by 0.60%.

What Does it Cost to Consolidate?

There are no fees or credit checks, nor is there any penalty for early repayment of your consolidation loan. Note however, that you can only consolidate once and consolidation can affect certain deferment and cancellation benefits associated with loans.

Are you about to Graduate?

Act now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). It is free and involves no obligation. SLCP will simply provide you with information on what consolidation is all about and contact you after graduation to remind you of the opportunity to reduce your interest rate by consolidating early.

For more information, call a loan counselor at 1-866-311-8076 or click on our ad at www.lavalleystar.com to see if you qualify for these savings.

While visiting the paper online, be sure and sign up for the email edition. It's the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it's free.

STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

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'Chaff' *continued from page 3*

gers he can make enough noise to paint the Dems as a bunch of buffoons.

As if Lieberman weren't Republican enough, there's Senator Robert Graham (Fla.), whose 69 percent "Liberal Quotient" rating from Americans for Democratic Action puts him below even Joltin' Joe's 76 percent. For context, Jesse Helms' 3 percent puts him in the range of Hermann Goering.

Graham, who opposed Gulf War II, actually calls Bush soft on terrorism, advocating much more action — and now. He's a multimillionaire who has signed the most death warrants in Florida's history and despite open-heart surgery in late January, he got his campaign underway in February. The Washington Post Magazine calls him "The Scariest Man In Washington… a freak-out candidate, a red-alert politician for a freak-out nation."

Lest the country believes Democrats are militarily incompetent, there's retired U.S. Army General Wesley Clark, a true-blue war hero who received a Silver Star, Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Medal, among others. He's been critical of Bush's handling of Iraq and doctrine of pre-emptive war.

Then again, is he a Democrat? He's not registered as one, though he apparently has said privately that were he to run, it would be as a Democrat. And his views on just about everything but military issues are hard to come by. What is his domestic agenda? How serious is he about running? It's still top secret, apparently.

But the overall confusion award goes to Congressman Dennis Kucinich (Ohio). He criticized Operation Enduring Fiefdom, or whatever it was called, saying it should have been a police action. As summarized by www.politics1.com, Kucinich "opposes NAFTA and free trade deals and nearly all increases in military spending, supports creation of a Department of Peace, stronger environmental protection laws, and universal health care."

But after a solid pro-life record for three decades, including advocating criminalizing abortions, he has suddenly become pro-choice. The former radio talk show host has raised a whopping $173,000 for his campaign so far. Next!

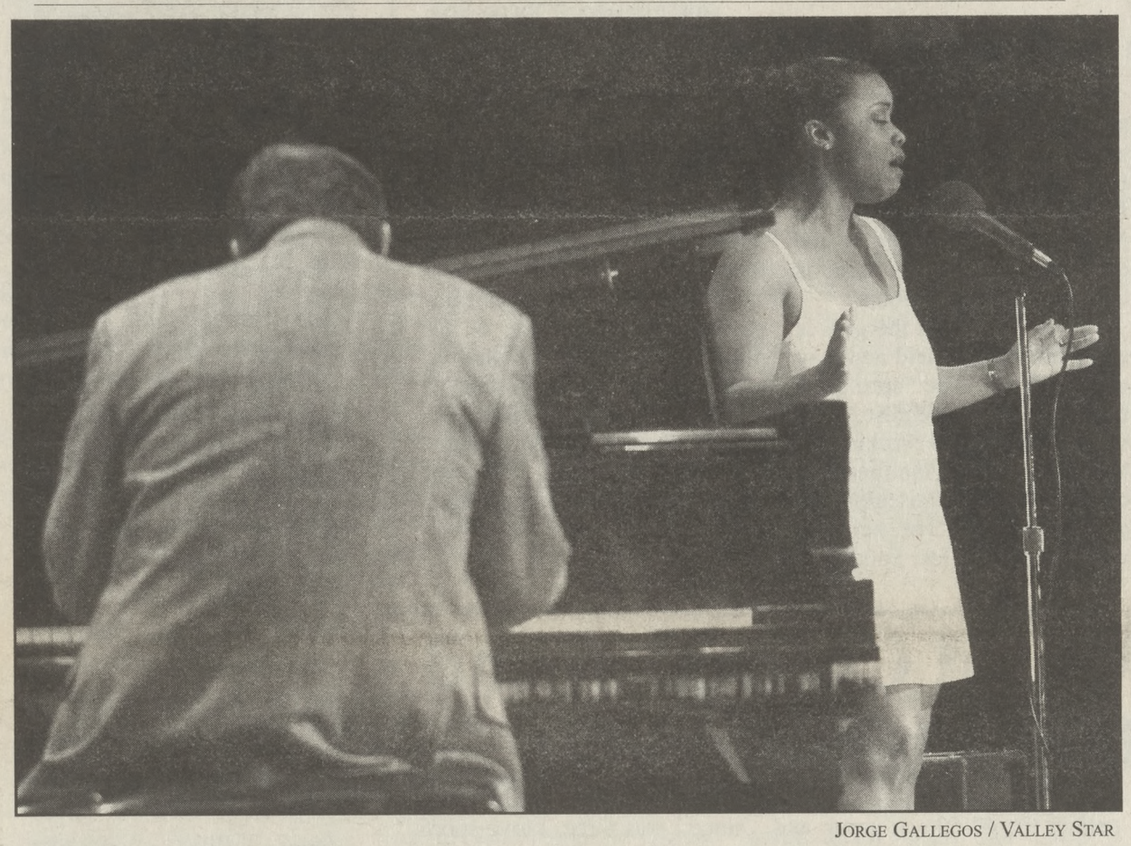
There's a former senator and Assistant U.S. Attorney from Illinois who is an outspoken critic of Gulf War II and decries Bush's deficit financing, tax breaks for the wealthy and doctrine of pre-emptive war. As a senator, this candidate sponsored progressive education and civil rights bills and advocated much stricter gun control laws. This eloquent, intelligent candidate is Carol Moseley Braun.

She's divorced. She's black. The GOP has to be salivating at the far-fetched fantasy that the Dems would put a divorced black woman somewhere on the ticket — so long, of course, as Bush doesn't have to debate her. And this doesn't even count her campaign funding scandal!

I know it all seems terribly sad and hopeless. Before you despair, however, there actually are more 'serious' candidates to consider, and they're considerably less hilarious choices than the above.

Next Week: The Wheat

Photos courtesy of candidates' websites.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

AWARDS NIGHT- Sandra Booker sang "Moonlight in Vermont" at the Scholarship and Awards Night. Booker won the Showcase Award for vocal music performance.

'Awards' *continued from page 1*

ment chair Alfred Zucker presented. Mier, who is president of Tau Alpha Epsilon and Phi Beta Kappa, received certificates from state senator Richard Alarcon (D-Van Nuys) and assemblyman Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys). He also took a trip to Sacramento in April where legislators honored him for his work.

"I'm shocked," Meir said. "This is a great honor."

Not all students attended to receive awards. Lilit Mnatsakanyan and Gayane Mkhitaryan, both sophomores from Grant High School, came to get a glimpse of what lies ahead for them at Valley.

"We are hoping to come here after high school," Mnatsakanyan said.

Advertising communications major Tammy Salama received the Mazel scholarship, which means "good luck" in Yiddish.

"This is such a great honor," Salama said. "I'm grateful to represent the Jewish community." She's worked at a Jewish community center for four years as a childcare counselor.

Patron's Association chairman Ed Sugar thanked donors, faculty, family members and students for their contributions to the campus and community. He asked the audience to keep Valley close to their minds when they're out in the world. "Once you are off at your career," he said, "please remember this special evening and this extraordinary campus."

'Merge' *continued from page 1*

receive the bulk of resources and funds due to size.

"Like a 900 lb. gorilla, they get more funds, resources and full time faculty," earth science department chair Don Gauthier said.

Earth science will merge with anthropology, economics with philosophy, and sociology with American cultures.

Faculty in earth science and anthropology are excited about collaborative class and team teaching opportunities. Those in the other departments are indifferent.

"The merging of these departments isn't going to affect classes offered to students," sociology department chair Tom Yacovone said. "If anything, it will help to integrate. Faculty members will see each other more and there's liable to be a more collaborative effort."

The earth science and anthropology departments came together in the building user group for the future allied health sciences building and began talking about what the two departments had in common. Similar classes like cultural anthropology and cultural geography both study fossilized remains.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the department expand," Gauthier said. "We already see many ways in which we can collaborate." After construction, both departments will share the allied health sciences building, along with the chemistry, biology, physics, respiratory therapy and nursing departments.

"There's a scientific focus in biological anthropology and archaeology," anthropology department chair Suzanne Engler said. "Anthropology as a whole is a scientific discipline."

Both departments use Geographic Information Systems, a database and mapping program that can take any data with a spatial address or coordinates and map and analyze it.

"It has many applications and is currently used by business, researchers, the military and homeland security, as well as state, city and county governments," Gauthier said. "In anthropology, if you go out and find a bowl or a bone, you want to map where it is."

Full time faculty in merging departments took separate votes. After each group approved the merge they submitted their new contracts to the Instruction Program Committee. All merges have been approved and will take effect on July 1.

Gauthier will chair the earth science and anthropology department, Sally Raskoff will chair sociology and ethnic studies and Harold Ravitch will chair economics and philosophy.

Several departments have decided not to merge

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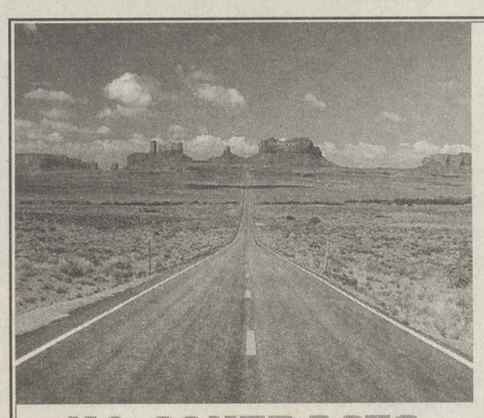
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Sports

Valley Football Team Springs into Action

By Jayson Addcox
Sports Editor

It's time to bring out the old pigskin, lace up the cleats and hit the gridiron — Monarch football is right around the corner. With less than four months until the start of the 2003 football season, the no-nonsense rule is in effect in the Monarch locker room.

Spring practice is underway, and for the third year in a row head coach Ron Ponciano leads the troops. In 2002 the Monarchs struggled, going 4-6, and this year may not be any easier as the team moves into a tougher division. The Western State Conference restructured the division, pinning Valley against tougher teams and perennial powerhouse College of the Canyons.

"This is a strong division, it's going to be tough every week," Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero said. The move means more work for the coaching staff, but this group of coaches seems up for the challenge.

"We're fortunate to have great players," defensive coordinator Josh Stevenson said. "The schedule is different but it's still one game at a time."

Spring is an important part of the season that provides an opportunity to establish personnel and work on fundamentals. The players' focus is team unity and attitude, among other things. The demeanor on the practice field has been intense.

"This game is fierce, we're getting that killer instinct going," freshman linebacker Adam Caruthers said. So far the coaches are exited with the player turnout — twice as many as last year.

Players are excited to play for Valley, the recruiting process went extremely well for the coaching staff. "The talent out here is incredible," recruiting coordinator John Leuger said. "I've been in this business for 22 years, and this group of guys has me exited."

Besides conditioning, implementing a new offense is the focal point this spring. The Monarchs are going from a pass-heavy offense featuring four or five receivers to a smash-mouth, hard-nose running attack. Last year the Monarchs were unable to run the ball effectively, but with some new solid offensive linemen, things look good for the ground game.

"We had good runners last year, but the line wasn't as good," offensive coordinator Jimmy Sims said. "This year we have 17 linemen coming in." With more linemen, the offense has been working hard to become familiar with new blocking schemes and run plays.

The offense will still feature a passing game, but it will be a much more controlled air attack. The receivers are fast and strong this year, so the offense should be twice as potent. "Were working on the fundamentals, catching the ball and learning a new offense," receivers' coach Charlie Welde said.

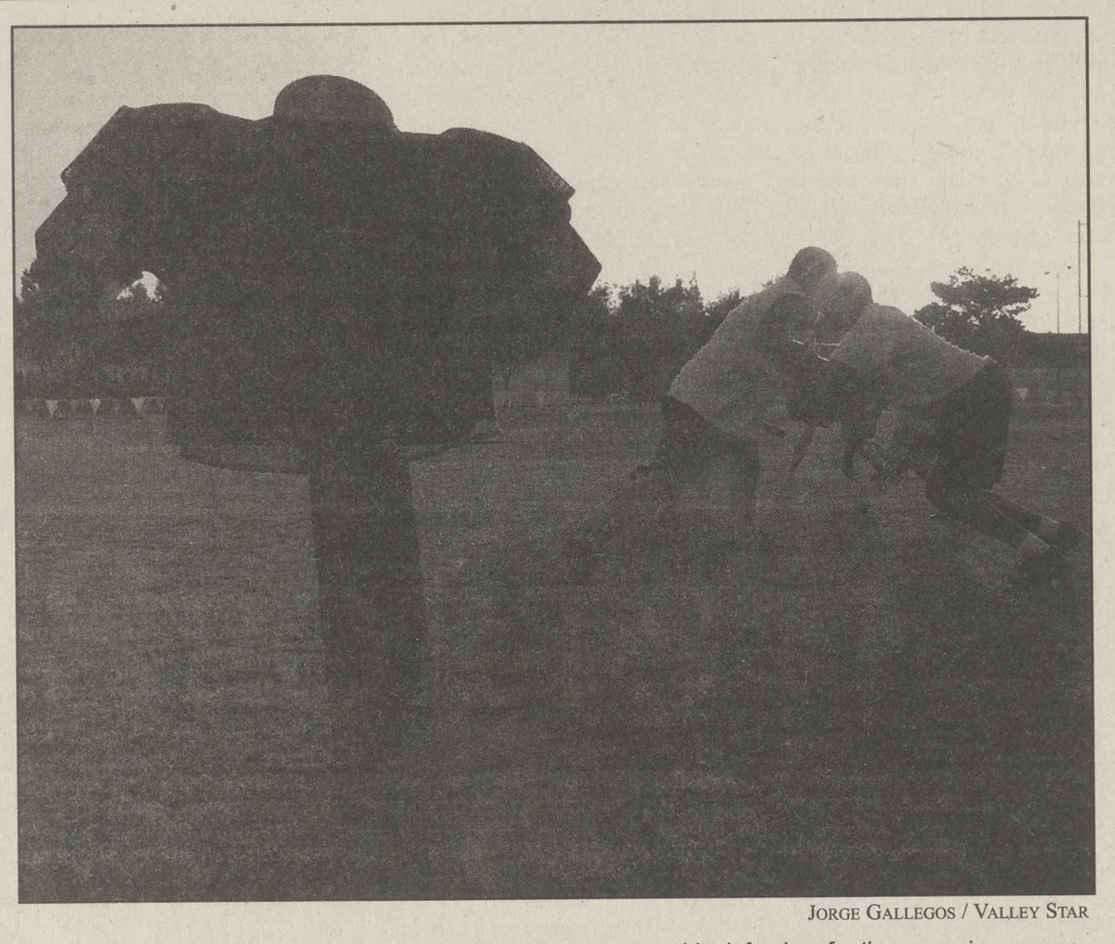
"The goal is to get bigger, stronger, and faster," Ponciano said. The defense is working hard to do that this year as it has for the last few. It has been the Monarchs' core group in the past, and much of the same is expected from this group.

Stevenson said the goal is to fly around the field and play with desire. The spring is important for the defense. Even though they're not working on tackling, they're familiarizing themselves with assignments and coverage. "We need to work on the basics, good pursuit, speed and desire," Stevenson said.

The players are excited to get things going, a new season brings many questions and these guys are eager to answer them.

"The only way you find out how good you are, is by playing the best," freshmen tailback Maximus Parra said.

"This is a great bunch of kids," running backs coach Dave Buchanan said. "They're willing to work hard to get better."



Jorge Gallegos / Valley Star

GETTING IN SHAPE-Defensive line coach Robert Muse tunes up his defenders for the upcoming season.

Armenian World Champion and Record Holder Attends Valley

Salvador Aguilar / Valley Star

RUNNING MAN - Gerasim Hayrapetyan is a student and medal winner at the Master Olympic Games held in Melbourne, Australia in 2002. he holds a high jump record that has not been broken in 26 years.

By Jayson Addcox
Sports Editor

Gerasim Hayrapetyan attends Valley College by day, but his spare time he's breaking track-and-field records and collecting gold medals. Hayrapetyan is 45 years old and holds a record in the high jump that's stood for 26 years.

"I love track, my father introduced me to the game when I was three," Hayrapetyan said. In 1977, he competed in the U.S.S.R. track-and-field championships as a member of the Armenian national team. He was only 19, but the record high jump he made that day still stands: 2 meters, 16 centimeters, more than seven feet. Since then he has continued to accomplish many feats in the high jump, long jump, triple jump and 110-meter hurdles.

He competed in the Italian championship games in 1998, where he won two gold medals-one in the high jump and another in the long jump. Two years later, at age 42, he began to compete in the 40-50 age group and won three gold medals in the Boston Indoor Track-and-Field Championship. In 2002, he won an amazing five gold medals in the Australian Melbourne Masters World Games. "I just love to compete in games, and I go to win," Hayrapetyan said.

Hayrapetyan was the director of the Armenian sports school in Armenia and trained many young athletes, now he trains at UCLA in Drake stadium. He has his own trainer and trains for one hour in the morning and two-and-a-half hours in the evening six days a week. He attends Valley four days a week, where he's enrolled in an English course and has made great strides in improving his English the last three years. "Valley has helped me a lot," Hayrapetyan said. "The teachers are very supportive,"

His life revolves around sports. He assists the track-and-field coaching staff at Northridge and is a coach for the Glendale Armenian soccer team.

"I've been playing games since I was three, I love sports," he said.

He's proud of his contemporaries in Armenia. One plays on the Armenian soccer team and another is currently an Armenian track-and-field champion. In the future he would love to coach his own track-and-field team or open a sports school in America.

On his days off, Hayrapetyan enjoys spending time with his family, dancing, playing soccer, bicycling and swimming. But Hayrapetyan doesn't expect to have time for leisure activities this summer — he has too much competing to do. In July he will compete in the Puerto Rican World Championships and in August he will compete in the Pan American Games in Sacramento.

Hayrapetyan's life revolves around what he loves. Medal after medal and high jump after high jump, this champion continues to strive for more.

"I don't ever want to stop competing, this is my life," Hayrapetyan said. "After I'm done, I will coach."

Jayson Addcox

Sports Editor

An Opinion

Farewell to a great run, a story we can all sit back and remember. The show that has entertained us through June is no longer. Our city has been rudely awakened from this dream and our ego has been shaken. Soon the Lakers will no longer be defending champions, but the moments we had together are unforgettable.

Thursday night I watched, as did most other faithful fans. As the clock ticked down and the crowd couldn't decide whether to boo or cheer, I stood quiet. The San Antonio Spurs beat the Lakers 110-82, in front of 18,997 disillusion of fans. It was as if the inevitable came to soon, it was as if Robert Horry's in-and-out 3-point attempt in game 5 carried with it our season. I stood quiet for a while as Derek Fisher's eyes watered, and Kobe Bryant hugged Horry.

It finally set in and I cheered out loud by myself. It was a great run. Phil Jackson brought us together, and Kobe and Shaq led the way.

Now it's evident that we're too old, too slow, too thin on the bench and we just need some change. Although four in a row is out of the question, a dynasty isn't. This off-season, I expect a lot. Mitch Kupchak please don't let us down. We will reload and strive for greatness in 2004. The Chicago Bulls won three in a row, lost, then came back to win three more in a row. I'm sure we can do much of the same.

Thank you Los Angeles for such a spectacular run, we can only be thankful for our championships and hopeful for more.

An Opinion

"They're How Old?"

By Bob Teichmann
Staff Writer

How old are you? Old enough to drive? Old enough to vote? Well, I'm sorry to say that the NBA, NFL and other professional sports leagues won't accept your application at this time. They're currently looking for applicants in the toddler age range.

Aren't you getting tired of this? Pro leagues have a thing these days for drafting players straight out of high school, many of them before they reach 18.

Then the teams and leagues have the nerve to wonder why, later on down the line, those same players' cocky attitudes cause problems for their teams and headaches for the guys in management who were dumb enough to sign their pointlessly large contracts in the first place.

I can't sit down to watch a game without seeing one of those smug-faced, cocky idiots who thinks he's the king of his hill. I don't care where they play, I just want them out of my pro leagues and off my TV.

There are a few exceptions to this. Los Angeles Lakers' guard Kobe Bryant came straight out of high school to play some games with the big dogs. Played he was. How many years did it take for Kobe to finally stop taking those wild three pointers?

With the massing public pressure on his shoulders, NBA Commissioner David Stern is looking into the idea of putting a requirement of some kind into place that would prevent prospects from joining the draft until they have played in some kind of post-high school level.

As unfair as that may seem to some, the idea that Stern has may be the only way to weed out the immature idiots and return sports to good old-fashioned fun.

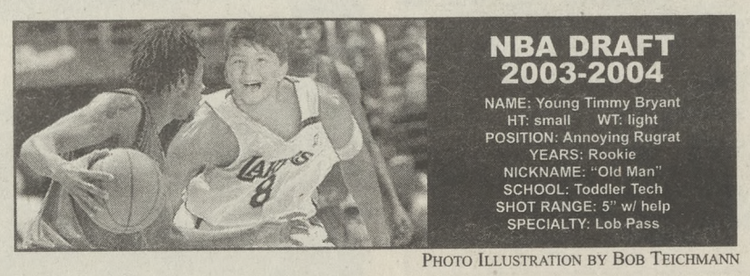


Photo Illustration by Bob Teichmann

SPORTS BRIEFS

NHL

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks completed the sweep of the Minnesota Wild with a 2-1 victory. The Ducks will play either the Ottawa Senators or New Jersey Devils in the Stanley Cup Finals.

NBA

The Dallas Mavericks shocked the San Antonio Spurs in the first of the seven game series 113-110, in San Antonio. Dallas was led by Dirk Nowitzki who had 38 points and 15 rebounds. Steve Nash added 22 points and Michael Finely scored 26. The Spurs Tim Duncan had a game high 40 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. The Mavericks made an incredible 49 free throws in a row.

MLB

New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza will miss up to eight weeks with a severe right groin sprain.

HORSE RACING

Funny Cide and jockey Jose Santos won the second leg of the triple crown winning the 128th edition of the Preakness Stakes. The last horse to win the triple crown was The late Affirmed who won it 25 years ago. Funny Cide needs to win the Belmont Stakes.

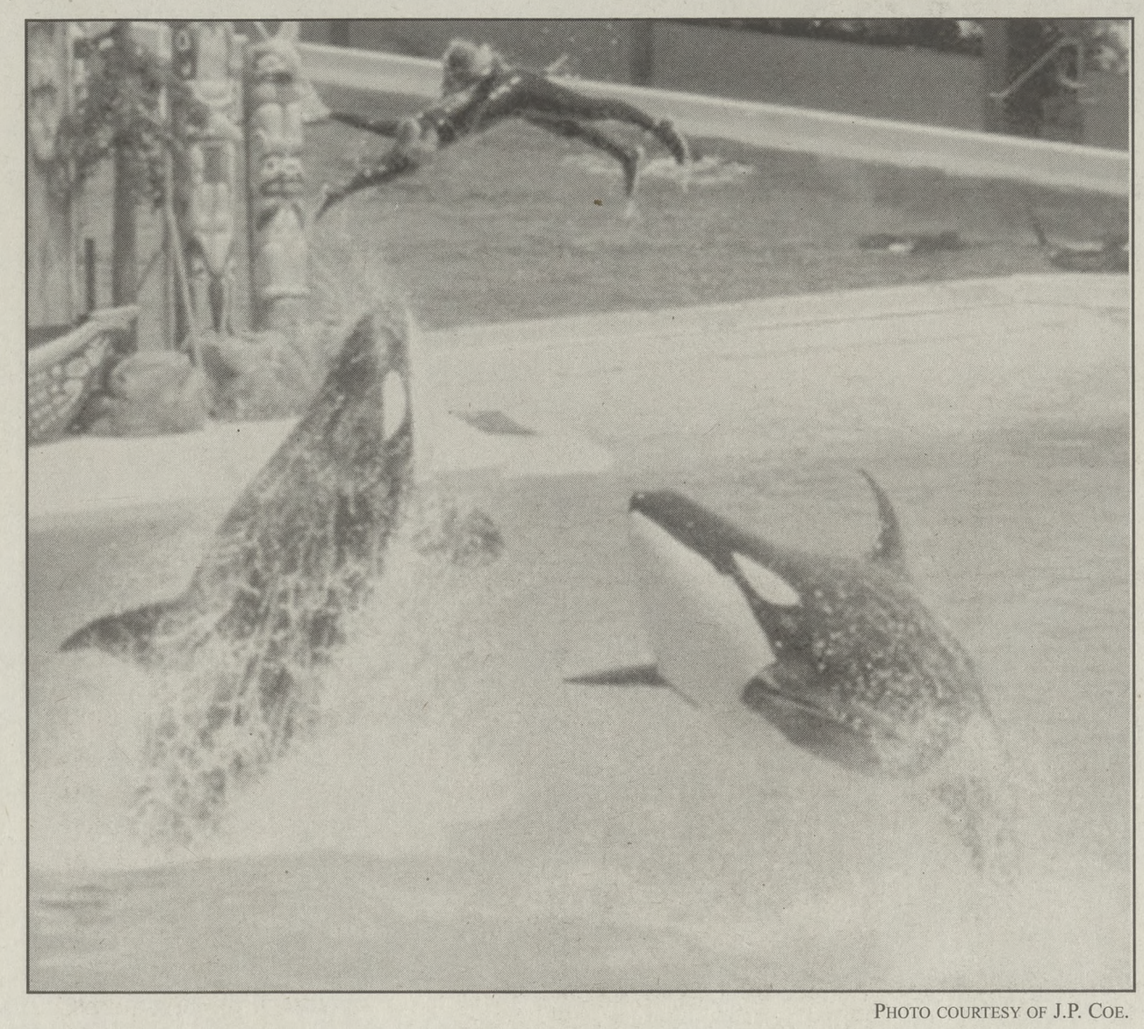


PHOTO COURTESY OF J.P. COE.

SHAMU- Trainers Becky and Lisa perform with Sea World's killer whales.

'Sea World' *continued from page 1*

the marine world. One of many field trips for oceanography students this semester, the trip to Sea World gave students both entertainment and education.

After entering the park, students roamed on their own. A report and photos documenting the students' experience was the only requirement.

"The purpose of all the trips is to demonstrate the various ways humans interact with the marine environment in California," Hams' husband Jay Call said. Call has attended and assisted most of the field trips this semester.

Students went to several shows, including Dolphin Discovery, the Shamu Adventure, Pets' Playhouse and Fools with Tools featuring sea lions and otters. Six bottlenose dolphins and two black pilot whales performed spins, jumps and flips while trainers talked about husbandry and training techniques. Animals at Sea World are trained by operant conditioning and receive only positive reinforcement, trainers said.

"It was interesting how they can communicate in a different way from people to get the message across and how the dolphins can communicate back," earth science teaching assistant J.P. Coe said. "The worst part of the trip was trying to figure out the map."

Spectators could choose either the soak zone seats or the higher, drier seats at the shows. Soak zone benefits included front row seating and gallons of 55-degree saltwater splashed on them from performing marine animals. A classic tube ride on Shipwreck Rapids also gave a wet adventure.

"Throughout the day the water stays a constant 55 to 60 degrees," Sea World educator Danny Gray said. "The animals have been acclimatized to warm water because they've been kept here a number of years. It's a gradual process."

Tide pools and manta ray tanks let students touch fish, sea stars and seals. Sea lions barked at the feeder pool where people could buy a tray of fish for $4. Dolphin, sea turtle and shark pools let students view the creatures up close. Penguins, rescued manatees, flamingos, moray eels, beluga whales and polar bears attracted attention at additional feature exhibits.

"The helicopter ride was exciting," oceanography student Cece Brown said. "After you got out you went into an arctic area, where they had the white whale."

The Arctic Wild exhibit took students on a simulated helicopter ride in whisper and snorkel modes, taking students underwater and up-close to arctic marine life. After the ride, students walked through an artificial arctic base camp. The Beluga whale was the most striking in the arctic zone, with its unique white skin and ability to maneuver unlike other whales with it's separated vertebrae.

"The aquarium was the best," oceanography student Carlos Vallin said. "The beauty of the vast varieties of color was amazing," Vallin said of the numerous fish on display. Vallin made sure to visit every aquarium in the park and said he enjoyed the De La Mer aquarium best, where jellyfish, anemones, baby sharks, an octopus and other colorful fish swam in tanks.

A tunnel cutting through the shark tank stayed packed throughout the day, and left students with chills as they made their exit. Visions of menacing, toothy shark smiles, pale bellies and powerful fins passed along at whim during the walk through shark-infested waters.

Students left satisfied with the day's adventure. The only frustrations came from the park's confusing map and a few cases of mild sunburn.

"I saw every single exhibit and I was able to ride the water ride," oceanography student Louis Borden said. "It was a very intensive thing and I'm dead tired. I'm glad I came."

'Lobby' *continued from page 1*

The caucus is divided, according to high-ranking officials who have worked to reach a compromise.

"We refuse to fix this budget deficit on the backs of local governments and college students," said David Louden, chief of staff for republican Alan Nakanishi (R-Lodi) in response to teacher's requests to find a way to raise revenue.

Democratic assembly members blamed Nakanishi and others for the governor's decision to cut more than $280 million from community colleges.

"We keep asking people what they're willing to work with," said Angelica Gonzalez, legislative assistant for Dario Frommer (D-Glendale). "People talk about raising taxes on things such as alcohol, but in their very next breath they say there are too many taxes."

The end of the day left many educators frustrated because they thought some of their concerns were not addressed. A meeting with Bruce Hamlett, chief consultant for the assembly on higher education, became heated when people from both sides of the budget issues raised their voices. Hamlett works for Carol Liu (D-Pasadena), who wrote Assembly Bill 680. The bill proposes to gradually raise tuition in community colleges by $5 a year for three years and give the money back to the colleges rather than to the state's general fund. Many students and educators said Liu's solution, while good intentioned, wouldn't work because more students would be forced out of college than would justify raising the fees.

"You guys have to look at this from the students point of view," math instructor Leon Marzillier said. "You can't expect students to pay more money for less services,"

This was the first time most students who attended the meetings had ever lobbied for their education. The meetings had special meaning for student Sheretta Thomas, who said going to school was a second chance for her.

"I'm an example of a student who's getting a second chance," Thomas said. "I'm a single mother of two and I take care of my 97-year-old grandmother. I've been working for the past seven years on a $16,000-a-year income.

JESUS CARREÑO / VALLEY STAR

INTENT- Max Espinoza, a senior consultant for Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach) speaks to students in Sacramento Monday.

"I always wanted to make more money, but without the proper training it was impossible," Thomas continued. "I work everyday without any financial support and I need that extra income from financial aid to help me make it through school."

Most instructors argued that if fees are raised it would force the neediest students, who would otherwise not have any educational opportunities, out of school.

"If you raise fees by even as much a one dollar, you're pushing out thousands of students," said LaVergne Rosow, Valley teacher preparation academy instructor.

At the end of the day, Jonathan Lightman, executive director of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, met with students on the south steps of the Capitol. He said fee increases would only happen if the legislators voted for them.

"Student fees will rise when you vote for them to rise," Lightman said. "Other states have other strengths. Our educational strength here in California is access. When we take that away, we've got nothing. What's unfortunate for you guys is that there are growing views that the May Revise is the answer to all their problems."

'Revise' *continued from page 1*

fare program that drained the state's economy.

Valley has also had to decrease this semester's schedule by 14 percent. The summer school schedule will offer one session this year instead of two, forcing students to delay graduation and transfer plans. Valley has also started selling it's fall 2003 schedules of classes for 50 cents, a practice that sister campuses like Pierce College have done for some time. Students can still look at the schedule online for free. The ASU unanimously approved the fee last month after receiving requests from administrators. The fee will save the school some $500,000 in printing fees, officials said.

While class offerings are being restricted for some subjects, there are many options for students to get the classes they need. Some students are going to other colleges outside the Los Angeles district to fulfill their required courses. College of the Canyons offers four sessions of summer school, some as short as four weeks.

"I'll be going to College of the Canyons to fill in a class I need for UCLA," said Armand Yedalyan, ASU evening division commissioner.

Other colleges offering different sessions include Pasadena City College, which starts May 26 and ends July 5, Glendale, from June 30 to August 8 and Moorpark from June 16 through August 9. The only other district college offering an additional session is West Los Angeles College, according to Yasmin Delahoussaye vice president of student services said.

'Prop. AA' *continued from page 1*

A two years ago are taking advantage of the state's educational blight to mislead the public into thinking the funds are more than just construction money. Hernandez and his colleagues think the lack of accountability and failure to control and monitor those entrusted with the funds have left the board unworthy of additional funding.

"We are concerned for the students," said Wilma Bennett, also a former candidate for the board of trustees. "If we thought this was the best thing, we'd go for it. The board said they want it on the ballot now, when there aren't as many voters going to the polls. They know we're going to get hit by all kinds of taxes from Sacramento and we can't afford any more of this."

BLACKOUT

ALEX DASH / VALLEY STAR

IN THE DARK- A power outage hit Valley Tuesday, causing concern throughout the campus.

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Merriment and Mirth

Elizabethan England is alive and well in Southern California. Get ready to transport yourself to the late 16th century where corsets, veils, tights, and various peasant styles were the height of fashion.

"Good day m'lady!" and "How are ye m'lord?" are a few of the greetings you can hear once you set foot into the 25-acre site in Devore's Glen Helen Regional Park in San Bernadino County. The Renaissance Pleasure Faire celebrates its 41st annual spring time festival where more than 250 artisans exhibit wares and historical crafts. Fans of the renaissance era can also enjoy feasting on gigantic roasted turkey legs, shepherd's pye, fish and chips and bangers and mash.

Paraders cross the faire throughout the day with shouts of "God save the Queen!" The faire also boasts performances from the Suhaila Dance Company, a nationally renowned Middle Eastern belly dance troupe (above and below). The faire is open weekends through June 16.

The 41st Annual Renaissance Pleasure Faire and Artisans Market

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and Memorial Day through June 16
WHERE: Glen Helen Regional Park, Devore
55 minutes east of Los Angeles in San Bernadino County

TICKETS: $18.50 for adults, $ 8.50 for children ages 5-11, children under the age of 5 are admitted free with an adult. Tickets can be purchased at the faire, online at www.renfair.com, or by calling (909) 880-0122

Photos and Layout By Salvador Aguilar and Text by Renee Rose Barrera